

痛い

いのは嫌なので

# 防 御 力 極 振り

に

「著」夕蜜柑

「イラスト」狐印

したいと思えます。

# 2



カドカワBOOKS

EQUIPMENT Muffler of Horizon

# **Itai no wa Iya nanode Bōgyo-Ryoku ni Kyokufuri Shitai to Omoimasu**

I hate being in pain, so I think I'll make a full defense build

**- Volume 2 -**

**-Author-  
Yūkyan**

**[ Paichun Translations ]**



痛いのは嫌なので

【著】夕蜜柑

【イラスト】狐印

All points are  
divided to VIT.

Because a  
painful one isn't liked.

防御力に極振りしたいと思います。

2

サリー

Sally's STATUS

Lv24 HP 32/32

MP 80/80

[STR 55] [VIT 0]

[AGI 153]

[DEX 45]

[INT 50]

SKILL Super Acceleration

Dual blade Defense break

Gale Slash Defense attack

Switch attack

Windcut

Sandcut

Waterwall / Wind

Welcome to  
"NewWorld Online".





巨大イカにお手玉されたままのメイプルが放った猛毒が、  
ボス部屋を侵食していく。

「うわ……」

また凄いことしてるよ……」

「綺麗な海をー、毒の海にー！」





「メイプルを守ってあげるか。そっちも、誰か来たら斬って」

——こうして中ボス枠は二人になった。

「了解。私も金メダルは持ち帰りたい」

イベント最終日にて



SKILL Super acceleration / Ancient ocean /  
Dual blade / Defense break / Slash / Double Slash /  
Gale Slash / Down attack / Power attack /  
Switch attack / Fireball / Waterball /  
Windcutter / Cyclonecutter /  
Sandcutter / Darkball /  
Waterwall / Windwall / Refresh / Heel

### Sally's STATUS

Lv24 HP 32/32 MP 80/80

[STR 55] [VIT 0]

[AGI 153] [DEX 45] [INT 50]

防痛  
御力  
極振り  
嫌いの  
思っています。  
に  
なので

[著] 夕蜜柑

[イラスト] 狐印

Welcome to  
"NewWorld Online".

2

# **Chapter 21**

## **Defense Specialized and Second Event**





Risa and Kaede were in the town of the second stage.

Because today was the day for the second event, their fighting spirits were perfect, they also did all they could do to prepare.

And right now, the announcement from the administration came.

“This time’s event will be an exploration type! The highlight is the 300 pieces of silver medal scattered in the field after teleporting! Gathering 10 pieces of these will make it into a gold medal, and you are able to exchange the gold medal to skills or equipments when the event is over!”

The announcement flows like that and the status window opens by itself, and shows the gold and silver medal.

Within those, Kaede was familiar with the gold medal.

It was the gold medal that Kaede received as a commemorative gift for the last event.

“The players in the top ten of the last event already have 1 gold medal each! You can defeat and steal it from them, or you can ignore and do your best on exploring!”

Some accessories such as luxurious rings and bracelets, weapons like large swords and bows are shown one next to the other in the window, every one of them is sleeping somewhere in the field that they were about to go.

Of course, there was also large shields.

“Even if you die, you will only drop medals! Your equipments would not drop so please do not worry! The only time that the medal would drop is when you are defeated by a player. Please do not worry, and do your best exploring! After death, you will respawn at the initial point that you are going to be teleported!”

For the meantime, it was a relief.

If the equipments wouldn’t be stolen, it would be at ease to some extent.

They could do their best on exploration.



“This time’s event will last one week in game time, the time that would pass outside the game would only be two hours since we will be accelerating the time! There are some spots inside the field that monsters would not come inside so please take advantage of it!”

It means, even after sleeping and spending time inside the game for one week, it would only pass two hours in reality.

“How can I say this, that’s a strange feeling”

“They said, once you log out you’re not able to join the event again, that’s why, we can’t log out if we want to join the event until the end. After that... they said that party members will teleport on the same place”

Risa and Kaede heard the explanation, saw it in the status window, and after discussing, decided to try to not log out.

“Medal enough for two, I hope we get it”

“Un, let’s do our best!”

The body of the two became light, and disappeared from the town of the second stage.

“n... we’re here?”

“Looks like we’ve arrived”

The feeling of earth that is sensed from the feet.

The two was in the middle of an open grassland.

You can see islands floating in the sky as if gravity had no effect on them, and you can also see mountainous areas far away. And in the wide open sky, you can see the appearance of dragons flying elegantly.

The field that the administration prepared this time, was a very rich and natural, utopia for monsters.

It was a fantastic world that was as if taken out from anybody’s fantasy world dream.



“Ohh~! Beautiful!”

“Amazing... it’s so beautiful shiver came down on my spine”

The two were walking on the grassland while talking, and even though they walked for 20 minutes, they didn’t encounter other players. Thinking that Kaede immediately had an opponent last time, maybe this time, the stage that was set this time might possibly very wide.

“Will we be able to find a medal~...”

“Who knows? Well, let’s do it slowly? There’s still a lot of time”

The two was talking like that, but they a goblin pushing aside the small grass on their right. It looks like it has targeted the two, and chases after them even though they went left.

“If the opponent is only a goblin... Snow White is good enough huh”

Kaede reequipped her large shield. Because she could not be wasting [Akujiki].

“Can I use this equips for a while? I’ll just change it to the Mirror of the Dark Night in case of anything”

“Okay~! I’m counting on you. This time, I’ll defeat them okay?”

Risa approached the goblin very quickly and swings her dagger. The goblin tried to receive it with the club in its hands, but there was no way that the weapon with bad quality could stop Risa’s dagger.

*\*Supa\**, the club was cut off together with the very deep red line in the goblin’s body. And, the first attacker easily became light and disappeared.

“Oh~! You’re really fast!”



“Fufufu~ thanks! I wonder if this is the area for weak monsters?... there might not be any medals”

“n~... maybe so. I think that the medals are in a place more difficult to see”

It looks like Risa agrees on Kaede's opinion and for the meantime, searched around caves or forests, terrains that seem to have a lot of monsters.

And walking about an hour after that.

“Right, Grasslands! Left, Grasslands! Behind, Grasslands! In front, Grasslands!”

Risa couldn't help but be shouting. Wherever you look, it was all grasslands. It was definitely grasslands up to the horizon.

“It's too wide~... for a while now, only goblins come out... see, it came again...”

As Kaede had said, the goblin was walking while dragging a rabbit that it probably caught as prey. It doesn't seem to have noticed Kaede and Risa, *\*GugyaGugya\** it was laughing happily with an annoying voice.

And while Kaede and Risa were looking at the goblin, it'walked' into the ground.

““... eh?””

The two was astonished and petrified, but when they regained their senses, they quickly moved to the place where the goblin disappeared.

“T-There's nothing?”

“No... there's definitely something! There should be!”

Risa had some kind of idea, and shot the space around there with [Wind Cutter].

It cuts through the distorted space, and that scene returned to its normal state.

In the two's feet, there was a staircase leading to the underground.

"A skill like [Mirage]... it was hiding the entrance with that. Maybe, there's another entrance. This grassland, are wide after all..."

"You want to enter?"

"Of course! a cave that is hidden very carefully... there should be one or two medals for sure!"

"Yo~sh! Then, let's go!"

The two entered inside the cave.

"Yo... tto!"

Risa slashes through the goblin's face with her dagger.

It was not like the monsters inside were especially strong, so they were defeated easily with Risa's attacks.

The path was wide enough for the two to walk side by side, so she is free to swing around her weapon.

"Another branched road..."

Kaede whispered.

As Kaede had said, this cave had quite a lot of branched road. It was stretching to a lot of paths just like the ant's lair, and there were also a lot of dead ends and small rooms.

"Which way should we go... Maple, what do you think?"

"...then, to the right! It is going down to the right, so I think that if there was a boss it would be in a deep place!"

"Okay~, then right it is"

The two moves ahead of the path. And entered a little larger room.



That time.

A roar echoes through, and the ground trembles.

The two felt instinctively. That this was the boss's roar.

And with that, footsteps and metal sounds approached the two. And with it, unpleasant cries.

"The boss might've commanded something, the goblins are gathering!"

"What should we do?"

To Kaede's question, Risa said while making a stance with her weapon.

"This room is only connected to two places, I'll leave the other one to you!"

"Okay~! Leave it to me!"

Kaede still doesn't exchange her large shield.

She was thinking of saving it for the boss.

Kaede drew Shingetsu.

It was the start of the fight.

"[Hydra (Poison Dragon)]"

She attacked full force from the start. Because the more she increased the number she attacked, the more that Kaede loses her attack power. If it was possible, she wanted to clean it up with one shot.

The Poison Dragon that was shot towards the goblins rushing inside the room, was stopped by shining barriers in front of the goblins.

In the back of the passage.

There were three goblins that were taking a stance with their staff in the back of the horde of the goblins.

That is probably, the magic of those three.

But, it seems like that was their trump card, the three was breathing with their shoulders.

Kaede's attack was just that strong.

In regardless of that, the damage dealt by the Poison Dragon was not only that.

Even if it was blocked, the poison itself that was scattered around wouldn't disappear.

The goblins that touched that poison agonized, collapsed, became a light and disappear.

Even so.

The goblins stepped on their allies that collapsed before they disappear, and came across the sea of poison.

They couldn't go against the command from the boss.

They were just, moving towards the enemy in front of them.

"[Shield Attack]!"

Kaede's attack had almost no damage directly, but it pushes the goblins to the sea of poison with the knockback effect.

Kaede only repeated that, and the number of goblins was decreasing. The three goblins that would've originally support them with magic was already exhausted.

"[Shield Attack]! It's the end, with this!!"

When the last goblin sank the last time. It looks like Risa also had ended fighting and went towards Kaede.

And, she noticed the magician goblins and started to attack with magic.

"[Fire Ball]! And, [Wind Cutter]!"

It looks like it didn't have any defense, the magician goblins were defeated easily.



“Good work, Sally!”

“You too, Maple. That being said, you really did it very flashy~”

Risa was looking at the sea of poison with surprise and astonishment.

“Ehehe... rather than that, let’s go! There is surely a boss in here!”

While making a shy laugh, Kaede changed the topic.

“I guess so, let’s go!... yo!!”

Risa jumped over the goblin that was agonizing in the sea of poison. Kaede of course, walked over it. Her poison resistance was perfect.

“If I was to touch it, I’m out with one shot”

She wouldn’t receive damage from friendly fire magic, but the effects that it does is different.

It means that if a branch burned by an ally by Fire Ball was touched, there would be damage.

“I’ll be careful okay”

“Please do”

The two went deeper and deeper to the cave.

The final battle, is very near.

# Chapter 22

## Defense Specialized and Boss Extermination

“Boss room-like room, I found it!”

In front of them was a door that didn't exist until now.

Opening the wooden door which was about 5 meters, they entered.

Inside was wide, and dim.

It was about 10 meters to the ceiling, and looking around, the width is about the same.

And the depth was about twice, and a huge throne was placed in the deepest.

And, on that, a giant goblin that has a hideous face was sitting.

It was sitting, so its size was not clear, but it was about as large as the door earlier. It was about three times of the normal goblin.

The goblin noticed the two, and roars.

To its tremendous volume, the two scowls.

“Let's defeat it already! It's too noisy!”

“I agree, let's go!”

Risa nodded.

Kaede changed her large shield to the Mirror of the Dark Night, for the final battle.

The distance to the goblin was about 20 meters.

Risa closes that distance with her top speed.

But, the goblin did not see that off.

Beside the throne, it took a giant saber that was placed in it and stood up, it was drawn violently while moving forward.

The impending deadly blade together with its tremendous sword pressure.



“[Cover Move]! [Cover]!”

Risa didn't know if she could dodge it. Because Kaede received the saber that was twice her height with her large shield without being intimidated, and erased it. The enemy's main weapon with overwhelming destructive powers was removed from the start of the fight.

The saber became light and disappeared.

“Nice! Yosh...!!”

Risa approached the boss further, and from this, Kaede's movements were unexpected for Risa, and maybe even to the goblin.

“[Cover Move]!”

To Risa who was running, Kaede was able to keep up by suddenly accelerating. The attack from the goblin hasn't come.

Risa, while being surprised, approached the boss.

“[Cover Move]!”

Kaede forcefully keeps up with Risa. With this, the two of them arrived in front of the goblin together.

The goblin swings down its muscular arm together with a roaring sound.

But that attack did not hit Risa.

With her proud dodging skills, she did not receive the simple attacks of the goblin. Risa, just like that, jumps up and aimed at the goblin's stomach.

When Risa's dagger was at the distance when it can reach the goblin's body.

“[Cover Move]!”

Risa made a wry laugh because of the way she uses Cover Move was already ridiculous it could be called its name.

Kaede was now close to the goblin, and entered the distance where the large shield can reach.

After Risa dealt an attack, she left that place.

Kaede twists her body and swings the large shield.

“How~is~it!! This power!”

A flashy damage effect the width of the large shield was ground on the goblin’s abdomen, and its HP bar was reduced by 30 percent.

And as if it provoked the anger of the goblin, it hit Kaede and fell to the ground.

“Fufufu... two times damage? Two times zero is zero!!”

The two times damage received demerit of the [Cover Move] became nothing in front of the erratic defense powers of Kaede. But that being said, her armor wasn’t like that, and it had cracks and crumbled.

“Uel?”

Kaede was surprised, but when the armor shines faintly, it immediately came back to its former shape.

“Ah!! I see, [Destruction Growth]!”

The destroyed equipments would grow more robust and solid.

Risa called out to Kaede.

“Can you do it one more time?!”



“Of course!”

Kaede stood up, and looked at Risa’s movements.

And, the instance that Risa was about to be hit by the goblin’s fist.

“[Move Cover]! [Cover]!”

She stood in between the fist and Risa and adjusts her large shield.

That hand was devoured to from its fist, became light and disappeared. It was swung down in full force to catch Risa who was quickly so its momentum wouldn’t stop.

The HP bar decreases tremendously again.

There was only remaining 40% left.

Kaede draws out Shingetsu.

“I should at least do something right! [Super Acceleration]!”

Risa’s body blurred, and accelerates.

Risa moves behind the goblin in high speed.

“[Double Slash]! [Wind Cutter]! [Powered Attack]! [Double Slash]!”

Combined with the speed of the [Super Acceleration], it was hit with high speed consecutive attacks. Even doing all of that, the gauge only fell by 15% so it was really clear how ridiculous Kaede’s large shield was.

After being attack by this much, the goblin couldn’t help itself to face Risa’s direction.

As the goblin turns around, as if to overlap the red damage effects, golden effects envelopes its arm and punches.

That attack didn’t hit Risa but the ground it hit was caved...

“Its power is rising, but... it’s too slow!”

Risa moves away from the goblin, and the goblin tries to chase Risa with blood-shot eyes.

“Is it okay? Chasing after me? I’m sure... that one’s scarier?”

“[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]!”

Kaede’s voice calls out a three-headed poison dragon.

The goblin that left behind the huge threat trying to chase after Risa received the attacks of the Poison Dragon from behind.

In addition to the huge damage of the Poison Dragon, the top level poison damage.

Even so, the goblin was somehow standing, probably because of its pride as a boss.

But that couldn’t last long, and its huge body changed into shining lights and explodes.

“Good job~!”

“You too... and? what was that weird movement?”

“Weird movement, oh you mean [Cover Move]? That’s great right! It had moved as I’ve thought so I was able to use it for attacking!”

“The only one who can live using it like that, and be able to deal decent damage, is Maple alone you know...”

In reality, if a large shield user was to copy that, he would probably sink after receiving two times the damage.

In addition, the only person who have that ridiculous attack power is about Kaede alone.

If it was only fire power needed, it doesn’t need to be a large shield.

“Sally was also so fast! That last one!”

“Well, it increases AGI by 50, so. I can’t use it because of its 30 minutes cooldown, but... it’s enough I guess”

“But, I can only use [Akujiki] 7 times left... I tried to not use it that much in the short term decisive battle...”

“Well, the Maple right now has bad fuel efficiency huh. This time’s skill acquisition,



let's get good ones!"

"Un, I guess so!"

After saying that, the two went towards the throne where the goblin was sitting on. There wasn't much decorations but it was a huge treasure box.

"I'll open it?"

"Okay~! Open it!"

Risa opened the treasure box.

Inside was, a saber that looks just like the one that the goblin had.

And, two pieces of silver medals shining.

"We did it! It's a medal!"

"In addition, two of them, it's two of them!"

The two didn't care about the saber and was crazed about the medal. In the first place, the two cannot equip the saber, so it was natural that they weren't interested.

"If there is two medals per dungeon, then... there is 150 dungeons...?"

"The difficulty might be different? Having a stronger boss for example! Other than that... something like, it is hidden but it has no boss..."

"Ahh, I see, there's something like that huh"

Risa stopped thinking of it, took the saber and looked at its specs.

[Saber of the Goblin King] [STR +75] [Damage Acceleration]
--

"Uuo~... that's a pretty brain muscle weapon~..."

“How does it look?”

“It’s easy to get destroyed so it’s not for long fights, but it has STR+75”

“We can’t equip it right?”

“Un”

“The equipment’s a miss huh~...”

“Do you want to search for the next dungeon? There’s a magic circle in the back of the throne, I think we can go outside when we stand on it”

“...if it’s only one, maybe we can do it today? I also think that the skills can take it!”

After discussing, the two stood on the magic circle.

Thinking of Kaede’s [Akujiki], it would be better using all of it in a day’s exploration.

It couldn’t be carried over tomorrow, so the number that they can capture would decrease.

And when the light disappeared, they were at the grassland earlier.

“I forgot... for the meantime, we should start from getting out of the grasslands...”

“W-Where do you think we should go?”

“Forward! Probably that is the best way. It shouldn’t be all grasslands up until the tall mountains that we saw on the start”

“Well, that is true!”

The two started walking towards the mountainous terrain.

# Chapter 23

## Defense Specialized and Exploration Resume

After the two walked through the grasslands for an hour.

They could already see the forest ahead.

The two regained their liveliness and increased the pace they were walking.

“W-We finally made it!”

“What a deep forest...”

The two entered into the forest.

The dense forest was not letting most of the light pass from the sky, and was very dim.

And, it has a lot of bushes making it a terrain well suited for the surprise attack from monsters.

“I will protect you alright~!”

“Really, I can count on you more than anyone else”

The attack that would make Kaede collapse, anybody wouldn't be able to endure it. Risa, while being cautious of the surroundings, hid in Kaede's shadows while moving ahead of the forest.

And after 30 minutes.

There wasn't one surprise attack that the two was worried about after all, and their exploration continues peacefully.

“Nothing's coming out?”

“Instead, it's too eerie that nothing's coming out”

“Ahaha... that's true...”



*\*Shin\**, the forest that was very silent was as Risa had said, very eerie.

The more they move deeper, the sounds were really disappearing.

“C-Can we talk about something?!”

Because of the anxiety beyond description, Risa shouts.

“Eh?! I-It’s okay though? Uhmm...”

At the time when Kaede forcefully started to talk to change this atmosphere.

The two heard *\*Po\**, a sound of igniting a fire.

Because it was the first sound since they came here, the two sensitively reacts, and looked towards where the sound came from.

And, the two saw a few blue supernatural fiery balls, floating, and approaching them.

“This is a game, this is a game, this is a game....!! Yosh, it’s okay, it’s okay...”

Risa mumbles to herself.

“That’s not okay at all, right?!!”

“You want to run? Let’s run? Let’s do that?”

It was proven that it was not okay.

“Well, using [Akujiki] is also a waste, so...”

“T-Then remove your equipments! I will let you ride okay!! It’s coming you know!”

Kaede left Shingetsu equipped just in case, and rode on the back of Risa.

That instance, Risa started to run without saying anything.

After that supernatural fiery balls appeared, the monsters also became lively, and. Floating skulls, supernatural fiery balls with different colors, zombies, and transparent humans, various kinds of ghosts and specters started to appear.

“Khuu...! We shouldn’t have entered this forest!!”

“Oh~! What a beautiful flame! There’s also a green one there!”

The two who have an intense difference in temperature just as a desert and a tundra, ran around the forest without fighting.

And, they finally found a crumbling deserted house, and jumps in it like an emergency escape.

“It’s crumbling... you want to search around?”

“I’ll leave it to you”

“Well, you’ve always been bad with ghosts right~”

“That’s impossible getting used to that. It’s inside the game, so it’s better since we could run away from them...”

Risa, seemingly very exhausted, sat on the chair in the deserted house. Kaede started to search around, but in the first place, there wasn’t many furnitures inside the deserted house.

There was only a worn out table, and the worn out chair that Risa was sitting on.

The dirty carpet placed beneath the table.

And an old chest of drawers.

In this room that there wasn’t even a bed, a person couldn’t live in it.

The windows are shattered in some parts, it was barely closed shut with the remaining shards of glasses.

“Inside the chest of drawers if... there’s nothing huh~”

Kaede had a faint expectation that there might be a medal, but it couldn’t go that easy.

Kaede opened her status, and checked the current time with the clock that was with it.

“What do you think? It’s already past 6 in the in-game time... it’s evening soon”

“Ah~ ... maybe that’s why the ghosts came out... we had the wrong timing to enter... we have some food that we had brought so we can do something about it though. I think I’d hate to stay here~ ... but~”

Risa silently took a glance outside of the window.

There were silhouettes that were clearly not of the players outside.

Since the monsters were not entering the deserted house, it seems to be safe.

But if they go outside, it would sure be a pandemonium of hell for Risa.

“It can’t be helped... I should bear with it...”

Kaede who finished searching around sat beside Risa. Because there wasn’t a chair, directly on the floor.

“Re-equip just in case, there... large shield is, Snow White is good huh... after that, you want to play trump cards?”

Inside the game, a few simple entertainment items exist. That was one of those.

“It might distract us for a while, but... we’re only two so it will end fast you know?”

“Ah! I-I see! I was not thinking of that!”

Risa saw that Kaede, *\*Fufu\** laughed.

It looks like she regained herself a little, and received the trumps card that Kaede was reaching out, and begins to distribute it.

The night had just started.

“Yo~sh... it’s this!!”

“There, too bad, it’s joker desu”

“Gugugu...”

Kaede groaned.

The two were playing games, trump cards, Othello, and chess that Kaede brought out one next to the other.

In the middle of it, they ate dinner, and continued the game.

It has no problem even if they didn’t eat inside the game, but Risa said that she wouldn’t be at her best if she didn’t eat just like in the real world while in spending time inside the game, so they brought a lot of food.

Risa gave food to Kaede, and the two ate.

What Kaede brought was only about entertainment items.

“n~... this one! Yosh, I won!”

“Damn it~...”

It was like a scene cut out from a school trip, but it was a sea of trees around the, and they were inside a deserted house.

“That took plenty of time huh... it’s already 10”

Kaede checked the time, and returned the trump cards and the rest into her inventory.

“They’re still eagerly walking around outside, so... this is, sleep the night here huh~...”

“I think that’s good. I think that there’s probably medals or equipments inside this forest, so... isn’t it okay in the morning after the monsters disappeared?”

“I’m sorry, we couldn’t explore”

“It’s okay, right! But, you should do your best tomorrow!”

“I understand!”



The two took out their sleeping bags, and spread it on the floor.

They said greetings to each other, and got on the floor.

Because the possibilities of monsters attacking weren't zero, the two slept two hours alternately.

First, it was Kaede's turn to sleep.

"It's quiet~..."

Inside the deserted house where Kaede's sleeping sounds could only be heard, Risa sat on the chair and got cautious of the surroundings.

Their worries were only a pointless concern because the monsters didn't attack.

And at the time when it's 12, when she was about to wake Kaede up.

A low, unclear voice was heard near the table.

It was intermittently, but it can be clearly heard.

"Uuuwwwaaaaaaaaa!!"



Risa who stood up to wake up Kaede, fell towards where Kaede was.

Kaede was sleeping because of the defense powers that she had even with that, but she woke up with the triple combination of the loud sound of the armor hitting the floor, Risa's shouting voice, and the low voice.

"What happened...?"

"I-It came out!! In the table! In the table!"

Leaving Risa who had lacking vocabulary because of the fear and impatience for the meantime, Kaede approached the table.

She really could hear a voice from there.

Kaede focused on hearing to find out the place where the sound comes from.

"The table... beneath it?"

There, was a tattered carpet spread.

Since Risa had curled in a corner, she moved the table with full force.

[STR 0] means something like that.

And she flips out the carpet and checks what's below.

"This is... there is underground?"

The floor had a cut in it, and had a handle.

Kaede immediately opened that.

"It opened easily!... stairs huh"

The voice was getting louder, the source of it was below there for sure.

"I'll go exploring okay?"

"I will... also go. It would be bad if Kaede got defeated..."

Risa stood up slowly, and stuck closely to Maple from behind.

“Ahead, leave it to me~!”

“Thanks... yosh...! Let’s go!”

Risa regained her fighting spirits, their destination is where the echoing voice from the underground comes from.

The two went down the stairs.



# Chapter 24

## Defense Specialized and Underground Exploration

The two were walking one step at a time, and cautiously went lower and lower.

The voice was getting louder and louder. Kaede was in front to prepare for a surprise attack while going down the stairs, then saw a door ahead.

Kaede placed her hand on the door knob.

“...it isn’t locked. I’m going to open it”

“Okay~. Yosh, come!”

Kaede made a stance with her large shield while opening the door. Because the door was opened, the voice could be heard clearer.

“It hurts... it hurts..... ahhh... ah”

Kaede showed her face from the large shield, and peeked inside.

Inside the room, was a candle melted to half placed in the middle of the ground.

And what it shimmers was, a bloody man that was tied to a chair.

“He doesn’t seem to have hostility...? But he isn’t a player either”

Following Kaede, Risa carefully showed her face from Kaede’s back. And she scowled with his painful appearance.

“What should we do?”

“n~... he’s saying that it hurts, so... I want to cure him~...”

“I have [Heal] though? You want me to try?”

“Un... please!”

Their plan was decided and Risa used [Heal].

A kind light enveloped the man, and his wounds healed a little bit. It was still too far away from a complete cure.

“One more time! [Heal]!”

Risa, while checking how the healing of the wounds, used [Heal] repeatedly.

After using the two MP Potion that she brought, the man’s wounds finally healed completely.

The two made a very content smile.

“Thank... you.....”

The man with his wounds healed smiled pleasantly, and slowly, his body changed into a white light, gradually dissipates, and finally disappeared.

“Did he went to heaven... it means?”

“Isn’t that the case? Probably, he isn’t living at all at the first place, though... n?”

Risa saw that there was something left in the chair that the man was sitting on. Inside this dark dim room, it was receiving light from the candle, and shines faintly.

Risa picked that up.

“This is... a ring?”

“Oh~! I wonder if it’s that man’s thanks?”

Risa checked the specs of that deep black ring.

[Ring of Life]

[HP+100]

“n~... probably the upgraded version of Maple’s Toughness Ring? The requirements to get it was simple so there wouldn’t be that great of an equipment huh...”

After saying that, Risa gave the ring to Kaede.

“Maple should get it. There’s nothing much for me increasing my HP”

“Eh!... but, is it okay? It might be an event-only item you know?”

“If you really, don’t like to have it for free, then I’ll put it on your tab. Maple would also probably get equipments that you don’t need too, so, if you’re like it that way...”

“I got it! At that time, I’ll give it to Sally then!... then, let’s equip this thankfully, there...”

With this, Kaede’s HP from 100, became double, 200.

It had finally become a reliable count, it could be said.

At the same time, her accessories slot was full, so it would be going to be hard to increase her HP from now on.

“Then, let’s go to sleep again...”

“The event in this forest, I wonder if it’s only this?”

“n~... I wonder? There might be at least another one, but... the time period probably has something to do with it. This also, it seems like it’s an event that appeared at 12”

Other than that, the time of appearance of the ghosts is most probably also was because of the time period of the event, so, they had the conclusion that they needed to explore around here for a few days to have a proper result.

“Then, the plan tomorrow is to get through this forest”

“Un, let’s do that”

For Risa, this forest was not a place that she wanted to stay for a long time.

When the two came out of the underground, they returned the furniture to its original

position, and when to their first plan of sleeping alternately.

“Then, good night, Maple”

“Good night~! I’ll keep a tight watch so sleep without worries!”

“Fufu... thanks”

And just like that, while alternating the lookout, the night had passed.

The second day.

“Yosh, let’s also do our best today!”

“Oo~!”

After the two ate a light breakfast, they moved ahead from the deserted house towards outside the forest.

To decrease the time spent, it was the usual style of Risa carrying Kaede.

From time to time, Risa climbs a tree and checks the direction of the mountainous area, and running just like that for an hour.

They finally saw the end of the forest.

“Yosh! We got through!”

“n~! It’s been a while where it’s bright, so it’s blinding...”

Kaede re-equipped and stretched,

In front of them, barren lands with only a few grass growing spread ahead. And that continuous up to the mountainous areas.

“This change of environment, if it’s not a game, it’s impossible right~”

“Not knowing of what scenery comes next is really exciting right!”

The two chatted while advancing through the barren lands. It was a terrain that was easy to know if there was a monster getting closer, so it was easy to scout.



That is why, they were able to see the silhouette that was most probably players from far away.

“Maple. There’s someone”

“Which equipment should I use? Is it better to have [Akujiki]?”

“I think that you shouldn’t use [Akujiki] yet, if it was a battle in an instant... it’s better to charge using [Cover Move]... other than that...”

Risa told Kaede with a small voice the other tactic.

“I understood”

The two advanced while strengthening their cautiousness. Since Kaede was 3rd in the last event, most of the players should know her face.

With some people, there is the possibility that they would attack to steal the medal.

And after advancing just like that, their side had also noticed of the two, stopped and started to discuss.

And without holding their weapons, the three moved towards the two.

All of the three players were male, and they were a sided party with a large sword, short sword, and one-handed sword.

When they reached the distance where their voices could be heard, the three of them started to talk.

“I can’t believe it~, when I thought that it’s the first time to see a person... I didn’t think that it would be a ranker from last time...”

“I was really terrified... we don’t have the will to fight so please let us go...!”

“We’re just going to climb mountains from now~ ... so we don’t want to waste skills”

“I see~. We’re also just about to climb mountains. I’m sure that there’s something in that mountain...”

With what Kaede said, it looks like the three had the same opinion, and asked if they could come with along.

“What do you think, Sally?”

“.....isn’t it alright?”

Just like this, the five of them advanced towards the mountain.

“Then, I’ll go in front... so Maple should stand in front of the three, just like protecting them”

“Okay~! I’ll protect you whatever monster would come!”

Kaede made a strong post with her large shield.

“You look really reliable”

“Really true”

Behind them, they started to walk while hearing the three whispering with themselves.

On the way, they encountered monsters for a few times, but without Maple needing to protect, Risa defeated it.

And, they already near their destination.

“Yosh, let’s do our best a little more!”

Kaede made a big stretch.

In that instant.

“Attack now! [Amor Crush]!”

“[Defense Break]!”

“[Ignoring Blade]!”

The three who was behind Kaede attacked at once.

Defense ignoring skills, loomed to Kaede.

As if they were checking for a chance for Kaede, their combination was really smooth. It can be said that there was no better surprise attack than that.

“[Cover Move]!”

But, their deadly blades would not reach Kaede.

The other tactic that Risa told, was for Kaede show the three people who went with them a chance purposely, and to show what the three people really wanted.

Risa had guessed that there was a high possibility that they were going to attack if they asked for accompaniment.

As long as Risa was nearby, Kaede had the fastest way to dodge.

She didn't say that she was sure that it would be safe, but Kaede agreed to Risa's suggestion.

And she was being careful of the three.

The men didn't notice that Kaede and Risa were observing them.

They were too focused on aiming for their prey, so their head couldn't turn enough to think that they might be also aimed at.

“What!?”

The men were surprised that their surprise attack ended with a failure, and stopped at their feet.

They had probably an absolute confidence.

“[Hydra (Poison Dragon)]!”

The Poison Dragon that was released as a counterattack devoured the three without mercy, and their HPs had been scraped off.

“To think that they’re really going to attack...”

“Well, there’s a reason for Maple to be targeted, so... it’s good that we had caution right?”

“It’s because I was able to activate [Cover Move] immediately! If I didn’t have that, it might’ve been dangerous...”

“Other than that... is there a medal? They might’ve dropped it”

Being told by Risa, Kaede advanced to the sea of poison. She searched around where the three collapsed, but there was no medal dropped.

“It means not to aim for getting rich quickly huh”

“That’s really true”

In this event, Kaede and Risa’s first PvP ended with a victory.

“Then, once again... let’s go climb the mountain!”

“Oo~!”

The two, once again, started to walk towards the mountain.



# Chapter 25

## Defense Specialized and Climbing Mountain

The slope of the ground appeared.

It looks like they're starting to enter the mountainous area.

"This mountain, other players should probably be moving towards it, so we should not let them go ahead of us"

"That's right, let's hurry as much as possible"

The two climbed the mountain very quickly. The mountain that the two were climbing right now was the tallest. Right now, there weren't any other players around.

Although, there is the possibility that they are climbing from another direction.

"Maple! Monsters are coming!"

"I got it!"

She exchanged her large shield to Snow White.

Assuming that there is a boss monster, she is planning to save [Akujiki].

Very different with the sea of trees, there was a lot of monsters, so their battle count is increasing.

"Oh! I leveled up. I'm 19 with this! Status is... I'll put it all to AGI"

There are big boulders here and there, and monsters suddenly jumps out from there so it was a situation they couldn't let their cautious down.

By one of them being always cautious of the surroundings alternately, they prepared for surprise attacks.

Because bird-type monsters attacks from the sky from time to time, they could only

deal with it with magic, and their MP was taken away.

The land monsters were wolf-types, they attack with quick movements.

“The ground is also really bad, so it’s hard to do it~”

“Let’s hurry up and climb!”

Two and a half hours of advancing while defeating monsters.

There was also snow that have started to stack on the ground. \*ZakuZaku\*, they walked forward will making that sound.

“Pretty much, we’ve advanced”

“Un, probably only another hour before the peak?”

Risa looked up to the peak.

Because of that, she was able to notice monster ahead.

About twenty meters ahead, there was a monkey that had a white fur covering its whole body.

That monkey charged down while kicking off the snow.

“It’s coming!”

“Un!”

The two braces themselves.

Near the monkey, two bluish white magic circles emerged.

There was a difference point with the monsters until now and the monkey.

That is right, it could use magic.

“[Cove]!”

Kaede instinctively covered Risa.

Kaede felt from the large shield continuous blows.

It was a continuous attack with ice gravels like a machine gun.

When the monkey approached with that, it made the magic circle disappear and enveloping a white shine to its fist, it punched.

This time there was a heavier blow that runs to the large shield.

“Sally!”

“[Double Slash]!”

While Kaede was getting the attention of the monkey, Risa slips beside the monkey, and slashes at it from behind.

The monkey scream, but without collapsing, it turned to Risa with anger in its eyes, and swings its fist.

The snow on the ground was a hindrance so it was hard to move, but Risa dodged with no problem.

“[Powered Attack]!”

The two consecutive attack counter cuts the monkey’s stomach deep, but it still wouldn’t collapse.

\*Gapa\*, from its opened mouth, a white shining magic circle can be seen.

“[Super Acceleration]!”

Risa draws one of her trump cards with an instinctive decision.

A large number of sharp ice pierced the place where Risa was an instant ago.

“[Slash]!”

The counter after evading the breath of ice, finally sinks the monkey.

The monkey's body became light and disappeared.

"Fu~... I used [Super Acceleration] huh..."

"After all, maybe I should participate too..."

"No, Maple should just prepare for the boss. I will be able to use [Super Acceleration] again, so... leave on the way to me!"

"n~... I got it. But, if it becomes dangerous I'll [Cover] you okay?"

"Thanks! That'd be helping"

The two once again advanced to the ice mountain. The monkey seemed to be something like a mid-boss, they did not encounter it again.

Instead, the monsters that appears was a mole that was moving through the snow with zigzag while raising a cloud of snow, and a while armadillo that rolls while taking the snow with it.

"We should be careful with the mole, but... the armadillo just continues to roll after dodging it so it's very easy right"

"I think that it would be instant death if the armadillo hits though... well, if it was Maple maybe it could be endured"

While talking about that, they climb up.

And, they finally reached the mountain peak.

The mountain peak was shaped as a clean round, and there was a shrine made of stone at the center.

There is a white shining magic circle in front of the shrine, and it was shining as if to lure the two.

It was a teleportation magic circle that they saw many times.

When the two started to get close to the magic circle.

From the opposite side of where the two climbed from, a party of four climbed up.

It was a party of a large sword, large shield, and two magicians.

They also noticed Kaede and Risa and looked towards the two.

Risa prepared for a PvP, but that didn't happen.

"Ah!... Crom-san!"

"Oh?... Maple huh... I didn't think I'll meet you here... uhh, we don't want to fight. I don't even think we'd win"

Crom said that and took away his weapons and the rest also followed, and raised both of their hands.

"I also don't want to fight.... it's okay right, Risa?"

"Well, I guess so. We also don't want to be exhausted, so... it should be good to be cautious at least, but... probably it's okay... I think?"

Because it could be hardly said that it would be absolutely fine, Risa continued to talk without letting her guard down.

"And then... what should we do with this shrine? Both of us can't receive the rewards right?"

What Risa said was reasonable, since it would be either Crom or Kaede who enters first, if they were able to successfully capture it, the rewards might disappear.

Kaede thought of it for a while, then started talking.

"n~ ..... Sally. Can we give it to Crom-san and the rest?"

To Kaede who told that apologetically, Risa was surprised, then answered while making a pleasant smile.

"...if Maple is good with that, I'm okay with everything you know? But, you shouldn't regret it! Promise me that okay"

"Un... I got it!... then, please go on first!"



Kaede told towards Crom and the rest.

“I-Is it okay? In this case, it’s normal for it to be first one’s first though...”

“It’s okay! You should hurry up and go before I change my mind you know?”

After Kaede said that, Crom said thanks and stood on the magic circle and disappeared. The two were left behind on the mountain peak.

“You’re really fine with that?”

“Un... if it became a battle here and we used our skills, it would be bad after all if it became a battle after teleporting, so... most of all, I didn’t want to fight with a friend too”

“Un! If you’re not regretting it then its fine... right now, I wonder if they’re in a battle?”

Risa said while looking at the magic circle that had lost its shine.

“Maybe”

“What should we do? You want to go down? That or, if they’re fighting they might lose, so... since we even saved our skills, you want to wait?”

When Risa suggested that.

The magic circle regains its shine again.

It was the sign that it was possible to enter again.

““Eh?!””

The two were surprised.

It hasn’t been a minute since Crom and the rest entered.

It was an unexpected speed.

“W-What does this mean?!”

To Kaede who was confused, Risa started to talk what she had thought.

“For start, there are two things that I had thought of. One, the possibility that it ended very quickly since it was only needed to collect the medals or equipments after teleporting. The other one is...

Risa stopped her words there once, and whispered with a very unpleasant air what she didn't want to happen in reality.

“The possibility that they were defeated by a very strong monster without being able to do anything”

“That is...”

“If I were to choose, it is the latter... I think. The reason why the magic circle is still lighting is because it can be challenged again, I think. Then... what inside, should not be an equipment... probably”

Fortunately, there was no sign of any other players climbing. The two checked each other's status and decided to make a strategy before challenging.

“It's only about, my armor became [VIT +40] because of [Destruction Growth], and my HP increased. Skills are perfectly reserved”

“I also didn't change a lot. [Super Acceleration] had recovered too, and there is still [Mirage] remaining”

Maple  
Lv24  
HP 40/40<+160>  
MP 12/12 <+10>

[STR 0]  
[VIT 170<+81>]  
[AGI 0]  
[DEX 0]  
[INT 0]

### Equipments

Head [---]

Body [Armor of Black Roses]

Right hand [Shingetsu : Hydra(Poison Dragon)]

Left Hand [Mirror of the Dark Night : Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)]

Legs [Armor of Black Roses]

Shoes [Armor of Black Roses]

Accessories [Ring of the Forest Queen Bee]

[Toughness Ring]

[Ring of Life]

### Skill

[Absolute Defense] [Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)] [Hydra Eater

(DokuruuKurai)] [Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)] [Meditation] [Provoke]

[Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)] [Knowledge of Large Shield IV] [Body

Manipulation] [Attack Diversion] [Shield Attack]

[HP Strengthening (Small)] [MP Strengthening (Small)]

[Cover Move I] [Cover]

### Sally

Lv19

HP 32/32

MP 25/25<+35>

[STR 25<+20>]

[VIT 0]

[AGI 80<+68>]

[DEX 25<+20>]

[INT 25<+20>]

### Equipments

Head [Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)]

Body [Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)]

Right Hand [Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)]

Left Hand [Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)]

Legs [Leggings of the Ocean]

Shoes [Black Boots]

Accessories [---]

[---]

[---]

Skill

[Status Debuff Attack III] [Slash] [Double Slash] [Gale Slash (HayateGiri)]

[Muscle Strengthening (Small)]

[Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)] [Double Attack] [Powered Attack]

[Switch Attack] [Body Arts I]

[Knowledge of Short Swords II] [Jack of All Trades] [Defense Break] [Super Acceleration]

[Fire Magic I] [Water Magic II] [Wind Magic II]

[Earth Magic I] [Dark Magic I] [Light Magic II]

[Fire Ball] [Water Ball]

[Water Wall]

[Wind Cutter] [Wind Wall]

[Thunder Cutter]

[Dark Ball]

[Refresh] [Heal]

[MP Strengthening (Small)] [MP Cut (Small)]

[MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Knowledge of Magic II]

[Fishing] [Swimming X] [Diving X] [Cooking I]

[Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Sensory Blocking II]

[Sensory Awareness II] [Stealth Move I] [Leap I]

[Poison Resistance (Small)]

“For start, as soon as we entered, I will ready my large shield so hide behind me”

“Understood. And then, after that...”

The two discussed after that for about twenty minutes, then stood up and walked towards the magic circle.

“Yosh! Let’s go”

“Un!”

And, the two’s appearance became light and disappeared.

# Chapter 26

## Defense Specialized and Teleport Destination

The light that covered the two's sight disappeared.

And at the same time, Kaede readied her large shield to be alert for the pre-emptive attack, but the powerful attack that they were fearing of did not come.

All the more so, there was no monster anywhere.

The two continued to be on alert while confirming the surroundings.

In there, was a very wide circular space.

The walls were covered by blue shining crystals, and the ceiling was open.

From the sky, snow was falling.

And, one part of the crystal on the wall ahead was protruding, on it was a huge bird's nest.

But, it seems that the nest's owner was not there at the moment.

"Okay~... I got it. A bird-type boss would absolutely come. Maybe I can't use [Ocean]"

"What should we do? You want to approach the bird's nest?"

"...but carefully. Probably, it would come when we approached"

The two, while on alert, advances towards the bird's nest.

There were only five meters left before the bird's nest.

At that instant, together with a roaring sound, something was shot at high speed towards the hall from high up in the sky.

But, the two who was on alert could barely jump back and was able to dodge.

Those were sharp-edged ice.

And following that, a monster bird that has feathers white as snow swoops.

Glaring eyes, sharp beaks, and talons, bearing the dignity of strong beings, the monster bird descended to the hall.

The path of reconciliation does not exist from the start.

It was the start of the battle.

The monster bird emerges a magic circle on its sides.

From there, ice shards that were shot, covering almost all of their sight.

“[Cover]!”

Kaede lowers her large shield and stood in front of Risa.

If she received these shards, it was because that the number of uses of [Akujiki] would disappear in an instant.

“Yosh! It isn’t piercing!”

Kaede received those shards with her body, and nullified it.

It seems that the monster bird was more intelligent than normal monsters, after it understood that its attack wouldn’t go through, it combined the magic circles into one, and shot ice that was the same with what it shot from the sky.

In exchange for power, a chance appeared.

Risa jumped into that chance.

“Maple!”

“[Cover Move]!”

Forcefully catching up to Risa, there was only a distance of three meters between the monster bird.

When it was only one step before the monster bird, the monster bird raised harsh cries.

The white magic circle, spreads out the whole floors of the hall.

“This is bad...!”



With explosive sounds, piercing through the hall's floor, large thorns of ice grew. It reached one meter in height covering all of the floor.

But, in the exception of Kaede's surroundings.

Within the snow clouds were fluttering down, Kaede adjusted her large shield towards the floor.

".....I'm saved! Nice, Maple!"

"There's only 6 times left of [Akujiki] okay!"

"Okay~!"

Risa kicked the thorns of ice and approaches the monster bird as if to jump.

Because the footings were bad, she was not able to stop somewhere.

The monster bird tries to capture Risa with its talons, its speeds was even equal to that of Risa's.

"[Super Acceleration]!"

The sudden acceleration made the monster bird react late for an instant. And, in this rapid changing battle situation, that was a fatal mistake.

"[Cover Move]!"

The large shield that Kaede swung who closed the distance in an instant, devoured its talons together with its feet that were used to attack Risa.

The monster bird cries in a loud voice because of its anger and pain.

But, that movement only opens a chance.

"[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]"

The three-headed poison dragon devours the monster bird.

Kaede landed on the top of the melted ice that was melted by the poison that fell, and Risa looked at it from a place a little far away.

An unbelievable cold air was emitted from the monster bird, and the poison that covered the monster bird was frozen.

And, \*Parin\*, together with that high-pitch sound, it shatters and fell down with a glittering shine.

“It’s HP Bar was only decreased by 10%?!”

“No way...!”

For the two who had planned to finish it quickly with Kaede’s fast attack, its HP amount was higher than expected.

Without minding the two who were surprised, the thorns of ice that grew around the monster bird broke and gathered.

And after a few instances, it was shot as a bullet.

“[Cover Move]! [Cover]!”

Kaede who moved in front of Risa lowered her large shield and received the deadly bullets.

Red effects were emitted from her body.

“Kuu!... it’s piercing! [Meditation]!”

Because of the [Cover Move]’s demerit, the damage would be doubled if it goes through. With each attack, Kaede’s HP Bar was definitely decreasing.

“[Heal]!”

The method that they took when there is a piercing attack that could not be helped with was, Kaede would [Meditate] and Risa would repeatedly use [Heal] from behind. With this, she can endure until there's a chance.

Twenty seconds of endurance.

The blizzard of ice had stopped, and the rugged grounds only remains.

"Let's go!"

"Un!"

The two ran in opposite directions.

It was Risa which the monster bird targeted. The monster bird charged with fierce speeds.

"Concentrate!"

Saying cheers to herself, she fixed her eyes on the monster bird.

Together with it charging, shards of ice flew.

But, because it was while it was charging, so there were many open holes within those shards.

If it was Risa, it was easy for her to dodge them.

"[Leap]!"

Risa saw through the monster bird's charge, and jumps over its body at the last minute.

"[Slash]!"

In that chance, using [Status Debuff Attack], she did not forget to inject paralysis poison while slashing through it.

It is because if this paralysis poison piles up stacks, it might create a fatal chance.

The decrease of its HP bar was very little it couldn't be seen in it, but its not like it was not decreasing.

The monster bird turns around, spread its wings and fluttered.

With storm winds, the ice shards on the ground were caught up and closed in irregularly.

Risa jumped sideways with leap to escape the range of the storm winds.

“[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]”

Waiting for Risa to get through, the poison dragon closed in to the monster bird.

The monster bird that was targeted after it fluttered, was not able to face Kaede's attack with a perfect condition.

One of the three heads of the poison dragon hit its body.

“[Wind Cutter] [Fire Ball]!”

If there was a chance, Risa also changes to the offense. They need to accumulate as much damage as possible.

The poison that entangled it once again became ice and was shook off.

Probably feeling that the poison dragon was a threat, the monster bird charged to Kaede.

Because shards of ice do not have an effect to Kaede, there should be no problem with this movement.

It's charged closed into Kaede who didn't even seem to dodge.

Its talons, was swung intended to tear apart Kaede's body.

The large shield, was swung devouring the body of the monster bird.



The monster bird bent backwards while scattering flashy damage effects.

Kaede swings again her large shield in pursuit of a chance.

From Kaede's body also, there was a small red damage effects scattering.

The monster birds' attack was able to deal even a damage to Kaede who had more than 1000 VIT without using piercing skills.

But, it was clear to anyone which one paid a greater sacrifice.

The HP Bar on the top of the monster bird's head was decreased to only 70%.

"[Leap]!"

There was no way that Risa would let that chance escape, and jumped to the back of the monster bird that was stunned by Kaede's attack.

"[Ocean]!"

The monster bird's back as its center, water had spread.

That steeped the monster bird in an instant.

When the monster bird starts to go on a rampage with its angry voice, Risa had already jumped off.

The monster bird's speed fell.

"[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]!"

There was no way for the monster bird that had its speed falling to dodge that attack. Its HP decreased furthermore.

"[Double Slash]! [Fire Ball]!"

Kaede grinds the monster bird in-fight.

Risa checks for chances while injecting paralysis poison by hit-and-away.



And there, Kaede's large shield once again devoured the monster bird.

The monster bird's talons also had ground Kaede's HP bar to half, but it wasn't enough to be fatal.

The monster bird's HP bar was cut in half.

At that time.

The monster bird took distance from the two, and pierced its talons to the ground very deeply.

Its beaks were greatly opened, and a magic circle that was about double Kaede and Risa's size spread.

The two instinctively sensed the danger after that.

"[Cover Move]! [Cover]!"

The next instant that Kaede shouted.

The two's sight were covered completely by a silvery-white laser.

# Chapter 27

## Defense Specialized and Conclusion

After a few seconds, the silvery-white fades and dissipates.

The fact that the ground was battered and gouged by the laser, said a lot about the laser's strength.

On that battered ground, Kaede had stood while holding her large shield.

Risa also was able to escape the laser with sure death because of that solid protection.

Risa recovers Kaede's HP with [Heal].

While hiding behind Kaede, she recovers her MP by drinking MP potion.

"[Akujiki], there's only one left"

"Un, I know"

To stop that laser, she could only cut her [Akujiki].

Although they were able to survive, it was in exchange for her precious damage source.

The battle situation is getting worse.

"If the laser would come again, [Cover Move] with full force. Don't get too far away"

After Risa said very quickly, and ran towards the monster bird.

Kaede followed Risa and approached the monster bird.

While Risa was taking the monster bird's attention, she is planning to hit it with [Hydra(Poison Dragon)].

The monster bird violently pulled out its talon from the ground, and shot shards of ice while flying up.

Its target was Risa.

Risa knew about it.

That if the shards of ice that Kaede was able to receive easily hits her, it was the end for her.

Just like the time she fought with the giant fish, her concentration heightens to its limits.

The feeling of the shards of ices gradually getting slower, she was getting able to see slight gaps.

Risa twisted her body and dodged.

At times, bending, at times, leaping, and at times, blocking down those shards, she closed in to the bosom of the monster bird.

“[Double Slash]!”

While Risa was dodging its talons and shards, she doesn't weaken her offense that is done with skills mixed.

The monster bird's talons closed in to take Risa's life, but they were dodged by Risa by paper's width.

The more the monster bird attacks, the more its feet get slashed.

“[Slash]!”

Small wounds that are continuously dealt.

The paralysis poison that gets stacked and piled up ties up the monster bird's body.

“[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]!”

That gap that Risa made while risking her life on it, there was no way for Kaede to let it get away.

The paralyzed monster bird that moves slowly cannot dodge the Poison Dragon.

For Kaede to be able to hit her huge skill, Risa supports with her full force.

And, Kaede answered to that properly.

The monster bird's HP became 40% and a few.

“[Venom Cutter]!”

Kaede continued to attack. That that was shot from the magic circle in her sword's tip, was far inferior to [Hydra(Poison Dragon)] but it certainly deals damage.

Risa also continues to shoot magic to deal more damage.

When the monster bird's HP cuts 40%, the paralysis got cleared.

It targeted Kaede, and shots barrage of shards and strong winds.

Because these attacks doesn't go through Kaede, she lowers her large shield to save her precious [Akujiki].

While Kaede was receiving the shards attack, Risa was able to attack safely, so it can be said as a chance.

With Risa's rush, the HP decreased to 35%.

But, for Risa to release firepower, the MP consumed was severe.

If she wouldn't manage it properly, she wouldn't be able to attack with full power at the best time.

The instance its HP was 35%.

The monster bird stopped its storm attack, and flew to the sky.

Kaede and Risa felt a bad feeling at the same time, and gathered in the middle.

The monster bird that flew up the sky where snow was falling, its white shining wings was dyed to jet black that would even swallow darkness.

At the same time, the monster bird's HP started to decrease gradually, and when it became 10%, it stopped decreasing.

The monster bird raised a cry that made the atmosphere tremble.

“It’s coming!”

“I got it!”

To be ready for anything that would come, Kaede had the resolution of using the last [Akujiki] and made a stance with her large shield.

The jet black monster bird folded its wings and charged.

Even leaving behind its sound, it collided with Kaede’s large shield.

The last [Akujiki] took half of its HP bar, but there, the strongest large shield that protects Kaede lost its effect.

The monster bird’s talon attacked Kaede at high speed.

The large shield that she held broke.

Her armor was torn into pieces.

And her HP Bar was grinded to below 10%

“u, a...!”

To the too much of a damage, Kaede groaned. A black light overflows from the monster bird’s beaks.

“Maple!”

Risa jumped.

Kaede’s best salvation, was that Risa did not stop thinking.

“[Cover Move]!!”

Using all her will power, Kaede’s body moved towards where Risa was, and dodged the laser that followed at the nick of time.

The monster bird charged to pursue.

Unreasonable and violent speed that even Risa's forecast couldn't catch up.

The instant before that attack pierced through Risa.

"[Cover]!"

Kaede stood between the monster bird and Risa.

Although her HP Bar was only 10%, Kaede chose to make the most probably her last movement for this fight to protect Risa.

It's just that, she wanted to do that.

The monster bird's talon crushed her large shield and armor that got more sturdy with [Destruction Growth], and tore Maple's body.

A tremendous amount of damage effects scattered.

But still, Kaede didn't collapse.

Only one millimeter of her HP bar remained, and a white effect covered her body.

"[Leap]!"

That monster bird's talon that was swung, Risa understood that that was the last chance in an instant, how Kaede was able to endure it or anything, she stopped thinking about Kaede and jumped towards the monster bird.

Kaede followed that with high speed.

In the short sword that she was holding, a violet colored magic circle shines.

After the monster bird swung its talon, it lost its balance. It, wouldn't be able to dodge.

Risa became sure of victory.



But, in the instance when the monster bird's eyes shined suspiciously and a jet black magic circle was created between the two, she understood that that was false.

An expression that could be taken as surprise and impatience emerges to the two's faces, but they could not move any longer in the air.

Jet black magic bullets that were shot before the Poison Dragon.

The monster bird's last trump card flew while swallowing the two.

The two got swallowed, and their appearance disappeared fleetingly.

That's right, just like.

It was an illusion in a dream.

"How was my trump card?"

One instant after the magic bullets goes through, the space blurred and Risa appeared.

The last of the last.

For this one instant, [Mirage] that she did not show.

And the monster bird that saw that for the first time was not able to see through the illusion.

"[Cover Move]!"

The real Kaede came close to Risa.

It was a zero range attack where the time for the monster bird to dodge does not exist.

"[Hydra(Poison Dragon)]!"

Devoured by the Poison Dragon.

It raised a cry that echoed for long.

The monster bird already had its body sunken in the ground.

The white light that overflows from the monster bird was shining as if you bless the two.

“We did it... we won...”

“I’m tired... I want to sleep”

While collapsing in the battered hall, the two whispered.

“That’s right. What was that Maple’s skill? The one that endured the last attack”

“Wait a minute okay... it’s the skill called [Unyielding Guardian], it’s a large shield exclusive skill that can be taken when covering an ally when HP is below 10%. Only once every day, it would endure any attack with 1 HP, it says”

“Ahh, I see. That kind of skill huh... I only raised my level by the way... I mean, Maple’s HP is only 1 right now?! [Heal]!”

A warm light enveloped Kaede, and recovers her HP.

With this, she wouldn’t die from something sudden.

The two stood up and started exploring.

“The monster bird is in the sea of poison, so exploration, I’m counting on you”

“What would Sally do?”

“I’ll go look at the bird’s nest”

The two separated and starts their own exploration.

A treasure box did not appear, so there should be a reward that has the same worth somewhere.

Kaede advanced in the sea of poison while splashing, and went towards where the monster bird was.

“Ah!! Materials are dropped!”

What was dropped, were four black talons that even pierced through Kaede, and three pieces of white feathers.

It could be guessed that all of them were high-graded materials.

“Maple~! Come here for a bit~!”

Risa shouted from inside the huge bird’s nest.

Kaede ran with a trot, and asked Risa from below.

“Should I go up?”

“Un! Come with [Cover Move]”

“Okay~! [Cover Move]!”

Kicking the wall and jumping, when Kaede reached where Risa was, what she saw were two eggs, and five medals.

“This... the monster bird’s?”

“No, the size and colors are different... maybe it picked it up from somewhere... I can’t tell what egg is it from”

“Will we also take this back?”

“That’s right. There’s an indication of whether it is going to be placed in the inventory or not, so... which one do you like better?”

“Can I choose first?”

“It’s okay~! Please do what you like”

One was an egg with a deep green shell. The other one was an egg with a faint violet color.

“Then... I like green so this one!”

“Then, this one’s mine”

The two checked the egg’s information.

<p>[Monster Egg] Will hatch if incubated.</p>
---

“There’s only few information”

“I agree. I’d hate it if a monster would only hatch, but... maybe we’ll be able to tame it~ ...”

In this game, there is no summoners or tamers to the possibility is low, but thinking of the monster bird’s subjugation difficulty, it might be a special reward.

The two, for the meantime, decided to bring the egg with them.

The materials are two talons each for the two, and in return of being able to choose the egg first, Risa took two feathers.

The two went out of the nest, and walked towards the magic circle.

“There’s three magic circles?”

As Kaede has said, there were three magic circles that appeared.

It should be proper to think that they are connected to completely different places.

“Sally, which one should it be?”

“There’s also no [Akujiki], so a place where few battles would be good...”

Risa walked around while thinking for a while, and stopped in front of one of the magic circles.

“This one!”

“Okay~! Then, let’s go!”

The two entered the magic circle, became light and disappeared.

What remained was the battered ground, the proof that a fierce battle happened here.

# Chapter 28

## Defense Specialized and Midnight Exploration

The two's appearance emerged from the magic circle.

Even though she had no [Akujiki], Maple was making a stance with her large shield for surprise attacks.

"It looks okay... huh?"

The two confirmed the surroundings.

Surrounding them were ruins that had spread. There was plenty of marks of buildings being destroyed.

Guessing from the mountainous area's position, it looks like their location is on the opposite location of their starting point.

"For the mean time, we got to a good direction huh?"

"But, somebody might've already explored it"

"It's only the second day... the hidden ones shouldn't be found yet... here, there's probably nothing. It's right in front of the magic circle after all"

Nevertheless, there's no way that the management would place a medal right in front of the destination point.

While searching for a safe place, the two walked around the ruins, they decided to at least search too.

"...there's three players. What do think?"

"If possible, I don't want to fight... there's no [Akujiki] too... it's bad if we lost"

"I got it. The, let's go here"

The two passed through the ruins, and entered inside the forest quietly.

The monsters that were coming out were spiders and owls.

If you look at them after the monster bird, whatever monster it is, it looks like a small fry.

Their movements are slow, they also have no attack powers, and their HP is low too.

“Easy win, easy win”

They moved forward inside the forest. What they are searching for is a place that they can spend the night. They took plenty of time climbing, so the sun is already setting.

The two continued to explore the forest while defeating monsters.

“Muu... there’s nothing~...”

As Maple had said, surrounding them was only a forest that was spreading, and there seems to be no special buildings or caves.

“For the meantime, let’s climb on top of a higher tree. I think it’s better than being on the ground”

Sally chose a tree that only had branches in high places and jumped using [Leap].

“[Cover Move]!”

Maple followed her and reached the top of the tree.

There would probably no players that would prefer climbing one without branches on the lower places appearing.

The two rested their backs on the trunk of the tree and took a breath.

After doing that, the fatigue from the battle against the monster birds suddenly came.

“Sally... after 12, [Akujiki] would recover though. What do you think?”



It means, what Maple wants to say is, after taking a break for a while until 12, if she would like to explore in the middle of the night or not.

There was also the thing with the jungle in the other day, so there should be an event that is set to appear by during time periods.

The two's goal is 20 medals.

For that, they need to test many things, and there is a need for them to explore the places that they can explore.

On top of that, they need to find it before other players.

Rushing to explore during the last stage of the event is not good.

"If it's good with Maple"

"Un, then... let's continue exploring after 12 had passed!"

The two decided to use the status point that they gained from leveling up.

"Let me see~ ... AGI and STR huh?"

"One vote for VIT!"

Maple

Lv26

HP 40/40<+160>

MP 12/12 <+10>

[STR 0]

[VIT 175<+141>]

[AGI 0]

[DEX 0]

[INT 0]

Equipments

Head [---]

Body [Armor of Black Roses]

Right hand [Shingetsu : Hydra(Poison Dragon)]

Left Hand [Mirror of the Dark Night : Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)]

Legs [Armor of Black Roses]

Shoes [Armor of Black Roses]

Accessories [Ring of the Forest Queen Bee]

[Toughness Ring]

[Ring of Life]

#### Skill

[Absolute Defense] [Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)] [Hydra Eater

(DokuryuuKurai)] [Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)] [Meditation] [Provoke]

[Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)] [Knowledge of Large Shield IV] [Body

Manipulation] [Attack Diversion] [Shield Attack]

[HP Strengthening (Small)] [MP Strengthening (Small)]

[Cover Move I] [Cover]

[Unyielding Guardian]

#### Sally

Lv21

HP 32/32

MP 25/25<+35>

[STR 30<+20>]

[VIT 0]

[AGI 85<+68>]

[DEX 25<+20>]

[INT 25<+20>]

#### Equipments

Head [Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)]

Body [Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)]

Right Hand [Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)]

Left Hand [Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)]

Legs [Leggings of the Ocean]

Shoes [Black Boots]

Accessories [---]

[---]

[---]

## Skill

[Status Debuff Attack III] [Slash] [Double Slash] [Gale Slash (HayateGiri)]  
[Muscle Strengthening (Small)]  
[Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)] [Double Attack] [Powered Attack]  
[Switch Attack] [Body Arts I]  
[Knowledge of Short Swords II] [Jack of All Trades] [Defense Break] [Super Acceleration]  
[Fire Magic I] [Water Magic II] [Wind Magic II]  
[Earth Magic I] [Dark Magic I] [Light Magic II]  
[Fire Ball] [Water Ball]  
[Water Wall]  
[Wind Cutter] [Wind Wall]  
[Sand Cutter]  
[Dark Ball]  
[Refresh] [Heal]  
[MP Strengthening (Small)] [MP Cut (Small)]  
[MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Knowledge of Magic II]  
[Fishing] [Swimming X] [Diving X] [Cooking I]  
[Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Sensory Blocking II]  
[Sensory Awareness II] [Stealth Move I] [Leap I]  
[Poison Resistance (Small)]

In Maple's status [VIT+5] and [Destruction Growth], with both of those it's [VIT +60].  
[Unyielding Guardian] is added in her skills.

In Sally's status its [AGI +5] and [STR +5]

Maple ate the food that she received from Sally.

They needed to rest their body before 12.

In the middle of the night where even the sounds of the monsters moving got quiet,  
the two climbed down from the tree.

Since [Akujiki] had also recovered, their battle preparations are perfect.

And with that, Maple changed her shield to Snow White. It's to avoid wasting them.

"The forest, or the ruins. Which one?"

"U~n... the forest! There were also players in the ruins earlier so it probably got

explored”

“Un. The forest then”

The two advanced deeper and deeper into the forest.

From time to time, owls were charging without sounds, but Sally easily dodged with her own dodging skills, and Maple was ignoring them since there would be no damage after all.

And, after an hour and a half walking around the forest.

“Ne~, Sally? There... isn’t it shining?”

Being told by Maple, Sally looked at it carefully.

As Maple had said, far ahead of them, she saw a faint light.

“It might be a player, so... cautiously”

“I got it”

The two hold their breaths and approached.

In Sally’s case, she even made sure and used [Sensory Blocking].

“This is...”

“...bamboo?”

What was there, was a bamboo forest.

And one part of one of them was shining faintly.

“W-What do you think...? Should we split it into two”

Maple asked Sally.

“If there was a person inside, it would be very troublesome though...”

Bamboo that shines in the middle.

Whoever it is, they should imagine Kaguya-Hime. In fact, Sally was also like that.

“But... there might be a medal... there is also medals that can be gained from exploring right?”

After the two talked for a while, in the end, they decided to split it into two.

Sally swung her dagger.

*\*Supa\**, the bamboo got cut and increased its shine.

Nothing that they feared of had happened.

What’s inside, was one medal that was shining with a silver color

“Yay! Nothing troublesome happened, and we also get a medal!”

“Yosh! With this, only 12 pieces left!”

The two got happy, but it was wrong that there wasn’t a troublesome thing.

*\*GasaGasa\**, after the bushes around sounded, rabbits that had long horns jumped out one next to the other.

“Is it the moon’s Usagi-san?”

“Maybe... that horn, it might be piercing damage. Be careful”

“Understood!”

The two prepared for battle.

Maple, compared to the time when she just started the game, she really became like a normal player.

Even that is said, it is only about the things other than her status.

Comparing something like a rabbit to the monster bird, it’s only very cute.

The two started the battle against the rabbits that had jumped towards them.

After a while when the battle had finished, the place where the bamboo forest was changed to a sea of poison, and the bamboos that grew straight upwards were cut in the middle, it was that kind of a terrible situation.

Each one of the rabbits wasn't that much, but their numbers were tremendous.

"T-There's too many..."

"A hundred?... two hundred? I'm tired..."

Defeating all the rabbits that were jumping within the bamboo forest as if it was their own garden took them plenty of difficulties.

"Let's rest on the top of some tree..."

"Un... I agree"

In exchange for one medal, they got really exhausted.

The third day of the event, it had just started

# Chapter 29

## Defense Specialized and The Third Day of the Event

The two who had alternately slept on the top of the tree went down from the tree when the sun had started to rise.

They were deep in the forest, so it's hard to find the next place to explore.

"Maple. Where do you want to go?"

"Then... let's go straight and get out of the forest!"

"Understood! Let's go with that then"

The two advanced through the forest to the opposite direction from the ruins.

After 30 minutes of advancing, Sally secretly told Maple with a small voice.

"Maple. Behind us, there're players that are targeting us from the right brush"

Other than [Sensory Awareness], Sally senses the monsters or players by even using the sounds created from the brushes and the metal sounds of armors.

To not get suspected, the two continued to talk with a small voice while walking.

"They doesn't seem that strong... but they're aiming for a chance"

"For the meantime, do you want to catch them?"

"You can do that?"

"Un"

After answering short and quickly, she drew Shingetsu by a few centimeters.

"[Paralyze Shout]"

\*Kiin\*, the sound created from returning the sword to its sheathe echoed in the quiet forest.

A groaning voice could be heard in the brush behind them.

“What do you think?”

“Perfect. As expected!”

The two approached the brush with no problems.

In there, there were two players that received the powerful paralysis and collapsed.

“Having the resolution to be hunted instead, please come anytime, huh!”

Sally’s attack easily sunk the two players.

There was no medal.

“I think that it’s reckless to aim for Maple though~ ... if it was me, I’d never target her...”

With this, it’s the fourth time they encountered a player since the even have started.

And the two of those, a battle had started, but there was no problem at all since the opponent weren’t that much. The only one, Crom’s party was probably a strong enemy but they did not have a battle, so they haven’t had a hard time against players yet.

“Including today, only five days remaining... we might meet strong players somewhere”

Since they had encounters four times in two days, on simple calculations, they should have ten encounters.

Within those, there might be a player that has a high ranking in the previous event.

If they don’t be cautious, they wouldn’t know when they would be attacks.

That’s right. They also, have the same skills as the two have.



Another hour advancing the forest.

When the sunlight started to reach from the gap of the trees.

Finally, they were able to see the scenery outside the forest.

“Oh~...”

“Awesome...”

It was a valley that spread before the two.

The place where the two is, is on the top of the highest cliff.

There was a lush of plants, and you can hear the bird's voices.

The bottom of the valley was covered by a deep fog, and you can't grasp the whole picture.

If someone is to explore here, they first need to do something to be able to go down.

“Here, I wonder if someone had already explored?”

“I don't know, but... if it's this huge, they might've some place they forgot to explore?”

As Maple had said, the valley was very huge.

There are more than a hundred meters for sure from the place where the two is right now.

On top of that, its width is also wide.

This also seems to have easily more than a hundred meters.

“I guess so. Then, let's do something to go down”

Sally, she checked the cliff ahead of her for a while, and slowly went down while finding places that can be a foothold.

“U~n... there're no footsteps that can hold Maple huh~...”

The distance where [Cover Move] can reach is limited. Since Maple cannot go down the cliff by herself, Sally searched for big bulges nearby, but it looks like there was nothing like that.

“U~n... for the meantime, make a sign if there’s a place that I can land! If there’s nothing, you can go down okay!”

Was Maple checking the time, she said while looking at the blue panel.

“Eh?!... I-I got it~!”

Sally easily went down with light feet, but there isn’t a foothold that seems to be able to hold Maple.

Sally spent about two hours to completely go down the cliff.

“In the end, I went down huh... I should send a message to Maple again and...”

Even when Sally was going down, she was teaching Maple her current place from time to time.

This time, she sent a message to report that she had completely gone down.

After not even a minute since Sally had sent a message, a reply message was sent from Maple.

[Go away, just a little bit!]

“W-What is she planning to do...”

After Sally sent an’Understood’ reply, she went away for a bit as she was told, and watched what Maple will do on the top of a tree.

“Uwa~ ... what is that...”

The thing that Sally saw on the top of the cliff was a violet colored ball that has 10 meters in diameter.

And that, while Sally was watching it.

It rolled to the front slowly, and fell from the cliff.

The one part of the cliff that it hit changed its appearance to a melted mess, and while that was getting smaller, that fell.

And when that had reached the bottom, one part of that bursts with the impact of the fall, and splashed its sticky liquids to the surrounding.

“M-My eyes are spinning~~.....”

Within the center of the sphere that got messed up, Maple came out swaying.

Sally went down from the tree and approached Maple.

But even though that is said, she’s covered with very poisonous liquid so she won’t go near her side.

“So? What’s that?”

“That’s, well... it’s a skill called [Venom Capsule]... it locks in its target inside a venomous capsule... and makes them unable to get out”

Just as it says that it’s for locking things up, its durability is considerable.

There wasn’t cheerfulness on the way Maple spoke since her eyes were turning, but Sally understood the real way to use it.

“It gradually decreases the HP if you don’t have [Poison Nullification], so Sally should be careful when using it okay?”

“No, I won’t use it you know”

Because Maple who had gradually regained herself was finally able to walk, the two walked with the bottom of the valley as their destination.

The inclination still continues, and there're large steps in places here and there. That kind of steps is very dangerous since you cannot see ahead properly because of the thick mist.

"We can't see ahead at all..."

"If it's like this... there might be medals that are missed. Be careful with surprise attacks and the steps okay, Maple"

"Un! I got it"

But even though that was said, it wouldn't be easy for something like steps to decrease Maple's HP.

Because of that, they need to get ready for cliffs ahead of them.

They carefully advanced within the thick fog where they cannot even see a few meters ahead.

"n~? A water sound...?"

"Eh?!... it's true! I wonder if there's a place with water nearby?"

The two went towards the place where there're water sounds.

On the way, the bat-type monsters that came out was clearly a small-fry.

It looks like the level of the enemies around her is not that high.

"There it is!"

There's a small river in front of them.

That clear river, it was making sound from the water that was flowing to the slight step.

"Look, there!"

The place Maple pointed to. You can barely see that there was a crack in the boulders

and had been a cave.

Thinking that it might be a dungeon, the two approached that and entered inside, but they found out that it's only a huge crack that was not that deep and has not many signs of monsters.

"...let's make this our camp. It seems like valley exploration would take time too"

Although it was only a huge crack, as Sally had said, it was enough conditions to be a camp. At least, it would be far better than the top of a tree.

"Un. I agree! Also... we should also check the eggs"

"Ahh, I see. We needed to warm it huh"

The two decided the cave to be their camp, and take a little break.

And at the same time, they also decided to check their eggs.

# Chapter 30

## Defense Specialized and Valley Exploration

“Well then, first is the egg huh?”

Sitting on the edge of the rock wall, Sally said while taking out the egg from her inventory.

“Doesn’t this, disappear or something if it wasn’t put away?”

Maple asked Sally.

Items like equipments or potion, they disappear after two hours of being left alone after taking out of the inventory.

“I wonder?... to be sure, let’s put it inside once before two hours passes”

There was no way they could lose the eggs that they might never obtain again.

“Un, let’s do that”

“This, how will we warm it?”

“n~... with our skin after all?”

Maple removed her armor and large shield, and hugged the dark green egg gently.

“I wonder what will come out?”

She stroked the egg’s surface with a smile, as if she couldn’t wait for it to get born.  
Sally also warms the egg like Maple.

“What’s important is love! It is love!”

“Well, that’s true”

The two made their plan for exploration while stroking their own eggs.

“First, let’s go by the river to explore. If there, we can return to our base after all”

Within the terribly thick fog where they cannot see ahead properly, they would get lost if they didn’t have something like a landmark.

It was already a field that has a lot of surprise attacks, so if they were to lose the place where they can take their breaks, they would gradually lose their concentration, and receive attacks directly.

Attacks that doesn’t mean much to Maple, but it wasn’t like that for Sally.

Sally who only had a few HP might get defeated with one attack.

Dodging uses a lot of concentration.

The fatigue from it is immeasurable.

“Okay~! Along the river it is”

They warmed the egg for an hour after that, but in the end, it didn’t hatch this time.

The two returned the eggs to their inventory, and went out to explore.

“Yo~sh! Let’s go find medals!”

“Oo~!”

The two who had started exploring cheerfully walked towards the upper stream of the river.

Sally says.

“I think that there’s a lot of times where there are things in the places where the flows of these kinds of places start”

Maple also thought that that might be true. Because she thought that if she would place something, she would put it in a place that has a meaning.

It would be great if there were starting points and ends.

“I’m looking forward what’s there~”

“It’s not like there would be absolutely something there so mind that okay?”

“Un! I got it”

Because they were advancing to the upper stream, the rocks started to gradually increase, and it changes to an area that is hard to walk on.

“Maple~, climb up using [Cover Move] ~!”

“Understood! [Cover Move]!”

In places where it was difficult to climb, they got through it by Sally going first, and Maple followed using [Cover Move].

Advancing just like that for an hour.

Because their base was placed near the upper streams, the two were able to reach there faster than expected.

The thing that was there was a clear spring that has a diameter of three meters.

That which had a beautiful circular shape, gave the two mystical, as their first impression.

The thick fog also was an element that gave off a mystical atmosphere.

“It seems... very deep”

Sally whispered while taking a peak in the spring.



The size of the spring wasn't that much, but it looks like it was decently deep.

"You want to try and dive?"

"I think that it's worth trying I think that there are only a few players who have [Diving] and [Swimming]... they might've let it pass after going here"

Unfortunately, Maple isn't able to dive, so she decided to wait for Sally's return.

"Be careful~!"

"Un, I'm going~!"

Sally entered the spring, and dove at once.

She advanced deeper and deeper into the waters where light didn't reach.

And after ten minutes of swimming. She found a tattered treasure box that sank on the bottom of the spring.

While being cautious of traps, Sally carefully opened the treasure box.

What's inside was a silver colored wand. There were red and blue jewels engraved on its tip.

After she had the last check that there were no medals, Sally floated towards the water surface.

"Ha~! Yo! Tto!"

\*PashaPasha\*, while making water sounds, Sally went up from the spring.

"How was it?"

"A miss. Only a wand was inside"

"Uu~ ... I see~ ... the abilities are?"

"Wait a minute... it only has [Water Magic Strengthening] and [Fire Magic Strengthening]"

“For the meantime, we don’t need it huh”

“Well, yeah. What do you think? You want to go explore somewhere else?”

“U~n... then, let’s do it like checking the nearby while returning to the base”

“Let’s go with that then. It’s a valley this big, it isn’t strange that there’s at least one more”

The two carefully checked while going to the path to their base.

Along the way, they had explored on both sides of the river to the distance that they wouldn’t lose sight of the river, but in the end, they weren’t able to find something.

And, while this and that happened, they had returned to the rift that was their base.

“What do you think? I think that going to the lower streams are good too, but... it’s a little hard”

“Let’s see~ ... then what about concentrating on warming the eggs for today?”

Sally seems to be exhausted after being cautious inside the thick fog, and exploring with [Diving], so she accepted Maple’s suggestion.

“Egg, egg... there it is”

“Yo, tto”

The two took out their eggs from their inventory, and stroked it while hugging it.

“Ah~ ... it’s smooth and feels good to touch~ ...”

Sally whispered while leaning against the rocks.

Maple thought that she wanted to stroke it as long as she could because of its texture that was like a well-made porcelain.

“It wouldn’t hatch~”

“Well, it isn’t something that would hatch that quickly right”

Three hours of repeatedly placing the eggs to their inventory from time to time, and warming it.

The two stroked their own eggs while chatting.

“What do you think would be born?”

“Mine is violet and Maple’s is green right~... n~... wouldn’t something like a herbivore animal get born from Maple’s? Something like a deer”

“Deer... from an egg?”

“Isn’t it possible since its a monster? I really don’t know what’s going to be born~”

It was as Sally had said, anything could be born from an egg as long as it had been set since it was a game world.

“I hope that it’s a cute one~...”

Maple thought of several animals, she thought a lot of cute creatures. She also thought as much of the uncute creatures though.

In particular, she wanted to refrain from some insects.

“I wonder what would be born with mine?”

The color of Sally’s egg was purple.

Maple imagined creatures that might be born from that egg.

“Violet, violet... n~...?..... poison dragon?”

“Ah~... that is, I want to refrain from that~”

In the case where a poison dragon was born, if they were to fight together, Sally’s surroundings would be sunk into a poison sea for sure.

If that happens, it will become a situation where Sally wouldn't be able to move around.

"Poison dragon... poison dragon huh~... if possible, I want something more peaceful~"

The two imagined what was inside the egg.

This is good, I don't want this, while chatting with each other cheerfully, they warmed the egg with love.

Even though they were saying this and that, the two thought that they would treat the monster that would be born kindly whatever it was.

Did those feelings reach it.

\*Bishi\*, the egg the two have cracked.

""Uwa!?!""

"W-W-W-W-What should we do?!"

"F-F-F-For the meantime, leave it on the floor!!"

After the two had placed the egg to a steady ground, they stared at the eggs as if to lay down.

And at last, the egg broke.

The appearance of two monsters emerged from inside.

# Chapter 31

## Defense Specialized and What's Inside the Egg

“Ohh~!”

“It got born~!”

The two smiled happily.

The one that came out from the deep green egg was a tortoise just a little larger than the egg.

Its body has the same deep green color as the egg and its movements are calm.

The one that came out from the purple egg was a fox that has snow-like white fur.

After stretching for a few times as if to check its body, the fox started to watch its own magic that was purple flames flying around it.

“Ohh~... fox from an egg huh~... that's surprising”

“It's a monster so that probably doesn't concern it”

When the two was talking to their selves, the tortoise approached Maple, and the fox approached Sally.

The two cautiously patted their monsters, and the two monsters closed their eyes as if they felt good about it.

And at the same time, the egg started to faintly shine.

Its brightness gradually got stronger, and the eggs changed to a purple ring and a green ring.

The two reached out their hands to pick that up.

“The item name is... [Bridge of Bonds]. It says... equipping this makes it possible to fight together with monsters!... I can't leave this away anymore~”

Sally's explanation is the most important ability of the ring. Maple used her own eyes to check that ability.

[Bridge of Bonds]

While equipped, possible to fight along with monsters.

Possible monsters to fight with is one with each ring.

After the monster dies, it would return inside the ring and enter sleep, it cannot be called out for a day.

Seeing that they won't disappear immediately after dying made the two relieved.

If the settings were like that, they can't bring them to battle without caution.

"Mu~... a ring huh~. My equipment slots are full, so I should probably take off [Forest Queen Bee's Ring]. I can also regenerate Hp with [Meditation] after all"

When the two equipped their rings, the two monsters happily rubbed themselves to them.

"Ahaha, it's ticklish~!"

"n~... mofumofu~..."



And just like that, the two played around, but then, Sally noticed something.

“I’m able to see this child’s status”

It’s probably the effect of the ring, under their own status, there’s another status.

The two checked that.

No Name  
Lv1  
  
HP 250/250  
MP 30/30

[STR 30]  
[VIT 150]  
[VIT 150]  
[DEX 10]  
[DEX 10]

Skill  
[Bite]

No Name  
Lv1  
HP 80/80  
MP 120/120

[STR 10]  
[VIT 15]  
[AGI 70]  
[DEX 75]  
[DEX 75]

Skill  
[Fox Fire]



The top one's the tortoise's, and the lower is the fox's status.

Just like a monster's offspring, their status was quite decent even though they were just born.

"No name, that means... we should give them names!"

"I see, well, I guess so"

The two carefully thought of names.

While they were thinking for a while, the monsters played with themselves.

It looks like the monsters get along.

"Yo~sh, I decided"

"Un, I also did!"

The two thought of the names, and approached their own monsters.

The two kneeled down, matching their eyes with the monsters.

"tortoise-san's name is Syrup! Mufufu... combined with me, it's Maple Syrup!"

Maple felt very good for no particular reasons.

Did the tortoise like its name, it rubbed its body against her.

One girl and one monster were happily playing around.

"Then... how about Oboro? You don't like it?"

Sally said to the fox as if to ask.

It looks like the fox was satisfied, \*Pyon\* it jumped and hugged Sally as if to roll around her neck.

Sally's neck was very warm with her muffler and fox.

While the time was passing with a peaceful atmosphere.

Maple suddenly shouted.

There's a blue panel that shows the status in front of her.

"A-A-re?! M-Maybe..."

"n? What happened?"

Sally thought about it strange and approached, and took a peek at the panel.

"Eh?! Ah! D-Don't look!"

"n~... ahh, I see..."

It was only about five seconds that Sally was able to look at the panel, but she understood what Maple was thinking about.

The thing that Maple opened was Syrup's status, and because she was focused on one part of it, Sally who was very good at her perception knew what Maple didn't want her to see.

"Maple... to think that your status is lower than a tortoise"

"Ughu!!!"

Syrup has [AGI 15] and Maple has [AGI 0]

"Tortoise and Maple huh~..."

"Don't say it like the hare and the tortoise!! I can win if we did a race! The length of our feet is different!"

"Then... you want to try?"

"Eh!..... I-I think I'll hold back from it~. Ahahaha..."

She might not regain herself if she lost.

If that happens, she might throw away her full defense build and put [AGI] to her

status.

Maple felt like that.

She thought that there's no need to go on her ways to do that.

But if you say that she ran away from it, then that's all about it.

"Their status, I wonder if it's affected by their parents somehow? Both Maple and Syrup is defense specialized, and Oboro has a high speed too"

"It might be so"

The two continued to look at the two monsters' status.

"They can't equip equipments, but... their levels can be raised huh?"

"I wonder if they would get status points when their level goes up? Or is it that, their status raises on its own?"

Information about those isn't available in the ring's explanation so they didn't know.

"For the meantime, you want to raise their levels?"

"U~n... it would feel bad if they got killed..."

Sally said while touching the fox that moved from her neck to her head.

"Then, how about I go catch some monsters?"

"Good idea... is it? For the meantime, let's raise their levels like that"

Maple said to Syrup 'Wait a minute okay', patted it and went to go catch some monsters outside the rift.

And after ten minutes.

Maple returned with bats in both of her hands.

It was probably paralyzed, the bats couldn't move at all.

Maple placed those on the ground.

“Uhhh... Syrup! [Bite]!”

“Oboro! [Fox Fire]!”

Syrup bit off the body of the bat.

Oboro burned the bat with purple flames.

The red effects lit the rift, and the bat became light and disappeared.

“Ah~ ... their level didn’t go up”

“My side too”

“Probably... their children of quite strong monsters. That’s why, the experience points they need is probably high?”

If they defeat bats, level 1 players will surely raise their levels.

“Probably need some more?”

“Can I ask you for it? I don’t have skills that can catch them...”

“Un! It’s what they say the right place for the right people! But, while I’m not around, I’m counting on you to take care of Syrup okay?”

“I’ll protect them very well!”

Hearing Sally’s reply, Maple went outside once again.

It was twenty minutes later when Maple returned.

She returned hugging a total of eight bats.

“How can I say this, the feeling of a parent bird”

“The things that we’re doing is the same with bird parents after all”

\*DosaDosa\*, she dropped the bats to the ground.

Syrup and Oboro defeated four each, and the two monsters' level raised up to 2.

Syrup

Lv2

HP 300/300

MP 30/30

[STR 35]

[VIT 180]

[AGI 15]

[DEX 10]

[INT 20]

Skill

[Bite] [Shell Protect]

Oboro

Lv2

HP 85/85

MP 130/130

[STR 15]

[VIT 15]

[AGI 85]

[DEX 80]

[INT 95]

Skill

[Fox Fire] [Fire Pillar]

“It looks like their status goes up by themselves”

“It seems so. I mean, they rose quite well”

For the two monsters that seem to have a bright future, Maple went out to hunt after that for a few times.

However, because there were only a few monsters nearby, their levels did not go up.

# Chapter 32

## Defense Specialized and Downstream Exploration

In the end, they spent the third day with hatching the egg and playing with the two animals.

The time is 10 pm. It is the time that is troublesome to go explore once again.

“Ah~... what should we do~... you want to go exploring?”

“I think it’s enough for today...”

“I also feel like that...”

The two pats their own partners and decides the plan for tomorrow.

“Tomorrow, let’s go explore downstream, and climb up on the opposite side we went down”

“Okay... n? Climb up?!”

“Just like when we went down... ah!”

Maple was completely not thinking of what would happen next.

That’s right, Maple doesn’t have a way to escape this valley.

“W-W-W-W-What should we do?!”

“..... what should we?”

Maple asked Sally for an answer, but Sally also didn’t have a solution.

“Well then, let’s go downstream tomorrow while finding ways to go back. I think that there’s a way at least”

They only planned on exploring downstream, but because of the problem that they didn't anticipate, they would take longer time exploring than expected.

It couldn't be helped that if they didn't find a way to go up, they would've wasted their time.

"Then, we should leave early huh"

"We want to go up on the fourth day after all"

They decided the time they would leave would be four in the morning, and the two started to sleep alternately.

"Good morning"

"Good morning"

The two exchanged greetings and went to explore.

It is already the fourth day of the event, the second half of the fight.

The players who have obtained medals also have increased.

Fight for stealing and getting robbed are happening here and there.

And that is not something unrelated from the two.

They have to be prepared that there would be a battle anytime.

"Did something happen?"

"No, nothing, at least for now"

Even though they observed the surroundings very carefully, there wasn't any dungeon or magic circles.

And just like that, two and a half hours of going downstream.

They had a few battles along the way, and Syrup and Oboro's level raised by 1 and learned a very interesting skill.



The skill names are [Dormancy] and [Awakening]

[Dormancy] is the skill that makes them sleep inside the ring and safely recover their strength with the two's command.

[Awakening] is the skill that makes them come out with the two's command.

Right now, the two animals are sleeping inside the ring.

It is because the fog is getting deeper and they almost lost sight of them.

And just like that, thirty minutes of walking.

The two finally reached the end of the river.

The two had felt it even before they reached this place, but that changed to conviction when they came here.

"This is the source of the fog huh"

"Un, there's no mistaking it"

The dense fog became thicker, and Maple already had a hard time seeing Sally who was beside her.

The two approached the river.

And then.

\*Bufu\*, the fog was blown away by the wind, and the scene in front of them was exposed.

There was a spring there just like in the upper streams, and a pot in the center.

White fog comes out from the pot without rest. It looks like the pot absorbs water from the spring and creates fog.

"That pot... you want to check it?"

".....that's the only way huh"

The instant the two entered the spring.

The wind stopped as if it was aiming for it, and the dense fog instantly covered the surroundings.

“Sally! Are you there?!”

There was not one reply from that voice of Maple.

Maple increased her cautiousness.

“Uwa?! Ku!! Ahh!!”

Sally’s voice could be heard.

\*Gakin\*, \*Gakin\*, the sound of metal hitting each other could be heard. Sally’s voice seemed to be flustered and increases Maple’s worry.

In front of Maple who was going towards the direction appears a black hole.

She couldn’t see anything even if she took a peek.

However, she was sure that she could hear Sally’s voice from inside that.

“Yosh! Let’s go!”

Strongly closing her eyes, Maple jumped inside the hole.

When she opened her eyes, there was Sally who was scattering red effects from her body.

And.

A knight wearing a platinum full armor holding a shining white sword.

“Sally!”

Maple couldn’t help herself shouting to the surprise.

She couldn’t be blamed. It was the first time Maple saw Sally receiving damage.

It looks like Sally also noticed Maple and went towards her in a hurry.

“A-Are you okay?!”

“Un, somehow...”

Sally’s body was enveloped by the [Heal]’s light.

The painful red effects also disappeared.

“Stay behind me! I’ll stop it whatever happens!”

After Maple strongly said, she drew Shingetsu.

A purple magic circle appeared from its blade.

The knight casually held its sword.

“[Hydra]!!”

The three-headed poison dragon closes in to the knight.

The knight swung its sword downwards.

That sunk into the poison dragon, and cuts it into halves.

However, it was only one that it cut off.

The remaining two directly hit the knight.

The knight groans, and fell to its knees.

Even so, it tries to stand up with the support of its sword.

However, that did not happen.

From its tattered armor, a white light started to overflow.

It looks like the knight gave up on standing up, it let go of its sword.

And with that, it became a flow of light that doesn’t lose out with the platinum armor and raised up.

“Super weak compared to the monster bird!”

In fact, its ability to cut off the poison dragon was very strong, but it didn't have the HP and defense following that.

On that point, it can be said that the monster bird was abnormal.

"We defeated it!"

"Fufufu~! I'll take a look if there's any medal okay?"

Just as usual, the place where it was defeated was sunk in a sea of poison.

Maple could only go.

"There's one at the least right?"

Maple walked towards the place it was defeated.

"[Defense Break]"

A voice was heard suddenly.

Pain suddenly runs from her back.

The thing Maple saw when she looked back was a deep blue dagger that cuts her endlessly.

"Eh? Eh?"

"Aha! Ahaha, ahahahahahahah!!"

It was Sally who was laughing like crazy.

"W-Why?!"

Maple noticed her own HP that was being grinded.

If this continues it would be dangerous for herself.

“[Paralyze Shout]!”

A strong paralyze status ailment.

Maple noticed.

What was in front of her was something in the shape of Sally.

That was, definitely not Sally.

It was because damage couldn't be dealt directly towards party members.

“Aha! Ahahaha”

“It doesn't have an effect?!”

Very strong resistance to paralysation.

She was now sure that it was not Sally.

However, its speed was the same as Sally, no, it was much faster.

“It's being strengthened?!”

With a crazy laughter, its appearance disappeared and red effects comes out from Maple's body.

“Kuu!... I can't catch her!”

Even her proud poison dragon, even her large shield, there's no meaning if it doesn't hit.

Fortunately, its attack power wasn't that high.

Whether health would completely drop first or thought of something.

Maple was fighting against a fake.

And, that is the same with Sally.

“Ku!... it also has abnormal defense just like Maple!”

Sally passes her by the side and cuts through its body, but its HP bar wouldn't go down even a millimeter.

The despairing defense power was despising.

“It's the number one that I don't want to fight against you know...”

“Ahahahaha!! [Hydra]!”

From that thing that has Maple's shape, poison dragon was shot out. Sally dodged that. It was very easy dodging the poison dragon that wasn't especially fast. However, it wouldn't be easy to defeat that.

“This is... so tiring~”

Maple against Sally, Sally against Maple. They trust each other's traits quite well.

And that is very troublesome changing into an enemy.

The fight against the knight was only the opening.

The fight against something with the same appearance and abilities with the partner they trust starts now.



# Chapter 33

## Defense Specialized and Imitation Battle

“[Hydra]!”

Hydra was shot from Shingetsu.

However, that is not something aimed towards Fake Sally.

The poison dragon that flew out from the blade pointing towards the ground splashes, and scatters around Maple.

If she step on even one of those, the original Sally should die with one hit.

To approach Maple who was currently standing on the middle of the sea of poison, it would need give her a huge opportunity.

Fake Sally who took distance to evade the poison dragon runs.

Maple observed that intently.

And she noticed.

That in fact, it was approaching while avoiding the poison.

“You don’t have [Poison Nullification] huh”

When Fake Sally used [Leap] to jump, she collides using her large shield.

That, it clearly hit her body, however, there was no feeling from it.

“[Mirage]?!!”

“[Defense Break]”

Fake Sally slashes through Maple’s torso that was full of openings, kicked Maple’s body while using [Leap], and went out of the range of the sea of poison.



“[Venom Cutter]!!”

Fake Sally easily dodged Maple’s attack. However, from how it dodges, Maple felt something strange.

“I see... it’s not like it is like Sally herself”

Most probably, Fake Sally is faster than Sally.

Her ability to dodge is also high.

However, that is only because it is fast.

The dodging with skin’s length then counter attack like Sally does, doesn’t exist.

If it’s Sally, she should’ve been able to approach while dodging all attacks.

Fake Sally, it is only dodging by relying on its speed, but doesn’t have the combination of attacking and defending while dodging.

“Even so, it wouldn’t hit in the end~... [Meditation]”

As if it didn’t care about Maple who whispered that, the ground surrounding Maple raises.

A few pillars of earth raises making her vision bad.

And that became Fake Sally’s stepping stone.

“U~n, its magic is better than Sally huh”

“[Defense Break]”

She turns her large shield from where the voice came from.

She didn’t care even if it was a [Mirage].

She still have a lot of HP.

As she expected, that was an illusion made by [Mirage]. Maple’s back was slashed.

She swings her large shield while turning around but she only hits air.

“It can’t be helped... let’s go with an attrition war”

A magic circle comes out from Shingetsu.

Fake Sally saw that and took distance.

If it takes distance, it wouldn’t receive any attacks.

“It’s okay. Let’s test our endurance”

Maple whispers silently.

“[Venom Capsule]”

A purple-colored sphere that has a diameter of two meters. Maple soaks into there.

“[Meditation]”

The HP Fake Sally took off started to regenerate.

However, Fake Sally’s weapon are daggers.

If it attacks Maple, slashing through the poisonous sphere, it would be also poisoned.

On top of that, a sea of poison is spreading on the ground.

Maple’s surrounding is a top-class dangerous place.

It’s an area of hell that poisons all of those who approach.

Even if Fake Sally has [Poison Resistance(Large)], it doesn’t have [Poison Nullification]

It can’t completely nullify the poison of [Poison Dragon].

“[Cyclone Cutter]”

[Wind Magic] that has a higher level than what Sally has.

Swirling winds appeared around Maple and tries to break that poison barrier. However, the level of [Poison Dragon] and [Wind Magic] is too different. Some of it falls and splashes to the ground, but it couldn't reach Maple.

“[Venom Capsule]”

Answering to that voice, the capsule that envelopes Maple increased to a diameter of four meters.

The thickness of the poison wall increases.

For Sally who has a lot of tricks but has low power, it's a poisonous wall of despair.

“I'll patiently wait until Fake-san's MP is completely lost”

If Fake Sally loses all of her MP, her proud tricks would also decrease.

With that, it would be more difficult to get through the poison barrier.

The MP cost of [Venom Capsule] is 20.

She has nothing to change into MP from [Akujiki].

Because of that, she doesn't have stocks for MP.

There is also no more five times zero MP activation per day.

Maple silently waits for the automatic regeneration of her MP.

Fake Sally shots magic to the poison barrier.

That scene continuous for a long time.

“[Venom Capsule]”

Maple strengthens the barrier without mercy.

The capsule increases its thickness to six meters.

Maple has only one aim.

“If I can’t hit it normally... I will sink this whole room with the capsule, and defeat it”

It was an attrition war.

To grab victory, Maple pushes off Fake Sally to the corner of the room.

If there’s no place she could run to, the speed it was proud of does not have any meaning.

On the other hand, Sally was taking a hard time attacking.

After all, it was an overwhelming defense.

On top of that, attack powers that any careless movements would lead to death.

“The only silver lining, is that it’s more stupid than the original Maple huh...”

Fake Maple’s attacks is completely’defeat using [Poison Dragon]’.

On top of that, it doesn’t choose not to use the large shield with weak attacks unlike Maple.

Because of that, Fake Maple had already lost all of its [Akujiki].

The problem is, that [Poison Dragon].

Fake Maple has skills that Maple doesn’t have.

If it activates that skill, all of the remaining poison after shooting out [Poison Dragon] would gather to where Fake Maple is, and would be able to immediately shoot [Poison Dragon] again.

It can continuously attack without cooldowns.

For Sally to win against Fake Maple, she thought she needed to make it use all of the skill it has that have limitations, so it was outside of her expectations that it wouldn’t not be able to use [Poison Dragon].

“Well, it wouldn’t use something like [Paralyze Shout], so it might be for the better”

Right now, Sally is thinking of a way to defeat Fake Maple while dodging the three-

headed poison dragon.

“Ah~... what should I do. I don't have a decisive blow...”

For Sally, dodging [Poison Dragon] is very easy so there's no problem thinking about it.

Sally tried using [Defense Break] to attack, but her attacks were regenerated by the skill that was probably [Meditation].

“It has a troublesome skill that's left~...”

And while she is saying that, the poison dragon attacks again.

While dodging nimbly, she thought about Maple.

“I wonder if Maple is also fighting against my imitation? Has she already won?”

Sally thought that if it's Maple, she should be able to do something about it.

Right now, Sally herself doesn't have an attack that can be a decisive blow against Fake Maple, so there's no way that her fake would be able to defeat the original Maple.

Because it's Sally who had been saved a lot of times by Maple's ability, she strongly believed that.

“Well then... let's try a lot of things. I might be able to at least find one right”

Sally got resolute, and makes a plan while remembering her skills.

Right now, Sally can't win.

But, what if she grows.

What if she gains a new skill.

Since Sally can't bring down Fake Maple's HP, Fake Maple's movement pattern doesn't change.

As stupid as it is, it's an easy enemy that is just continuously shooting [Poison Dragon].

Fake Maple that does not have any change, and.

Sally who have the possibility to change.

Sally decided to bet on that possibility.

"Losing to Fake Maple, I'd hate it'cause it would be frustrating! Let's go with this skill first"

While wearing shining effects, Sally attacks Fake Maple.

On this side too, a very long attrition war starts.

# Chapter 34

## Defense Specialized and Imitation Subjugation

Four hours had already passed from the start of the battle, and it is also noontime on the fourth day.

Maple's attempt had succeeded, and the [Venom Capsule] had already reached the ceiling.

Also, the wide room, only one quarter of the room was not yet eroded by the capsule.

"[Venom Capsule]"

Together with Maple's voice, the capsule's size increases.

"Fuu~ ... just a little bit more..."

Fake Sally is still unscathed.

However, that doesn't matter.

If the capsule fills the room, she would be defeated without being able to recover.

The biggest problem was that attacks couldn't hit it.

The result is already decided.

Fake Sally doesn't have the means to break through this situation.

And, after another hour.

"[Venom Capsule]!"

That was the end of a long fight.

Fake Sally was engulfed, and disappeared while scattering flashy red effects.

To be sure, Maple got careful about [Mirage], but Fake Sally didn't have a place to go to in this room that is filled with poison.

And most of all, the medal that fell in the place where Fake Sally disappeared tells the story.

Maple released the capsule.

The capsule broke and a poisonous rain falls and splashes to the ground.

“Haa~... I'm spent”

To the different type of fatigue from the battle against the monster bird, Maple sat on the ground.

“Thank goodness it's inside a room... I couldn't have won if it was outside...”

She couldn't use this tactic if there weren't a limit on the space of the room.

If the environment wasn't her ally, she couldn't have won.

“I should collect the medal and step on the magic circle... I wonder what happened to Sally. Is she fighting with my imitation after all?”

Maple picked up the one medal that fell on the floor.

“I wonder if she could win~... if it's Sally, it would be easy for her to dodge my attacks though...”

While worrying about Sally, Maple stepped onto the magic circle.

The light fades, and what appeared in front of her was spiral stairs.

When she looks up, there was light.

It looks like it is connected to somewhere.



“Sally is... she shouldn’t have gone first right”

Maple stayed there for a while.

The two had decided to contact each other when they have died.

Since a message had not come from Sally, she knew that she hadn’t lost and returned to their starting place.

If that is so, there is only either Sally is still fighting and would teleport anytime soon, or they were completely separated.

Separated, meaning, in the case when Sally didn’t fight an imitation.

Sally might’ve been left behind in the fog and only Maple had fought.

However, Maple felt that Sally was still fighting.

“Sally should’ve been fighting too... I know! Syrup, [Awakening]!”

The ring shined and Syrup appeared.

“Let’s wait while cheering for Sally”

An hour of staying with Syrup to cheer after Sally while staying in her place.

That place was enveloped by a shining light.

To be sure, Maple readied her shield and looked what would happen.

“Haa~... I won...”

The light fades, and Sally was there.

“..... you’re the real one... right?”

Sally also noticed Maple with her voice and made a stance.

“.....let me confirm if you’re the real one”

“Alright?”

Maple looked at Sally doubting, and figured out that Sally fought against Fake Maple. If that is so, it is normal for her to confirm so she agreed.

“Are you Maple who I saw crying out loud during our sixth year of elementary after getting vaccinated?”

“Wha-W-W-W-W-W-Why do you remember that?!! Forget it!!”

A way to confirm that Maple didn’t expect.

Saying something that only the person itself knows.

It’s logical, but with those embarrassing contents, Maple hides herself behind her large shield with embarrassment.

Sally knew that this Maple was the real one, but she thought of teasing her just a little bit.

She fooled around because she was tired.

“Fufufu... you’re the real one! Well, I knew it though”

“.....wait. Let me confirm it too”

Maple looked at Sally with serious eyes.

“Eh!...”

Maple started to talk without letting Sally say anything.

“...are you not Sally who couldn’t stand up from fear inside the haunted house during middle school that was taken out through the emergency door by the clerk while crying?”

“Y-You don’t need to remember that!”

“Are you Sally who had played games too much that wrote killing moves in your notebook?”

“Wait, I’m sorry! Forgive me!!”

“I retaliated just a little bit”

“...haa~... it was a hornet’s nest huh~”

Anyways, the two was able to safely reunite.

“How was it with you, Maple? I fought against Fake Maple”

“I was against Fake Sally. I won probably an hour ago.”

It looks like Sally also got a medal and gave it to Maple

With this, they have ten of them.

“How did you win against Fake Maple?”

Sally was about to answer that, but she stops midway.

“If... if there’s a tournament-like event, I don’t want to lose easily against Maple, so can I make it a secret?”

“It’s okay! n~... then, it’s also a secret how I defeated Fake Sally! I also don’t want to lose after all!”

Sally says that it was a secret, but she shows her her status.

“You can guess with the skills though~!”

“I will thankfully look then”

Maple slowly looked at Sally’s status.

Sally
Lv21
HP 32/32
MP 25/25<+35>

[STR 30<+20>]

[VIT 0]

[AGI 85<+68>]

[DEX 25<+20>]

[INT 25<+20>]

### Equipments

Head [Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)]

Body [Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)]

Right Hand [Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)]

Left Hand [Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)]

Legs [Leggings of the Ocean]

Shoes [Black Boots]

Accessories [Bridge of Bonds]

[---]

[---]

### Skill

[Status Debuff Attack III] [Consecutive Sword Attacks I]

[Gale Slash] [Muscle Strengthening (Small)]

[Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)] [Double Attack]

[Powered Attack]

[Switch Attack] [Body Arts V]

[Knowledge of Short Swords II] [Jack of All Trades] [Defense Break] [Super Acceleration]

[Fire Magic I] [Water Magic II] [Wind Magic III]

[Earth Magic I] [Dark Magic I] [Light Magic II]

[Fire Ball] [Water Ball]

[Water Wall]

[Wind Cutter] [Wind Wall] [Cyclone Cutter]

[Sand Cutter]

[Dark Ball]

[Refresh] [Heal]

[MP Strengthening (Small)] [MP Cut (Small)]

[MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Knowledge of Magic II]

[Fishing] [Swimming X] [Diving X] [Cooking I]

[Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)] [Sensory Blocking II]

[Sensory Awareness II] [Stealth Move I] [Leap I]  
[Poison Resistance (Small)]

“Some of them have changed”

“I might use them in the remaining time”

“You’ve become quite reliable after this short time!”

“From now on, we can fight together again”

Sally smiled happily.

Maple also returns a smile.

“Then, let’s go up stairs”

“Alright. I still want medals”

The two climbed up the spiral stairs towards the light.

The place they went up to was the other side of the valley.

The two were tired after a long fight, but there isn’t a lot of time left, that they could rest for.

It’s already afternoon of the fourth day.

The one who gets the medal first is the winner.

“We should explore the forest”

Maple said while looking at the forest that spread in front of them. It is unknown how deep this forest is. It is also unknown if there are dungeons within it.

“Let’s cheer up and go!”

“Ohh~!”

The two entered the forest searching for a new dungeon.

# Chapter 35

## Defense Specialized and Desert Exploration

Compared to up until now, the scale of the forest was small.

“Oh, we’re already out!”

“Oh~ ... it’s a desert”

It was a vast desert that spread in front of the two.

There was sand while cactus can be seen everywhere.

There was no appearance of players.

“Let’s go”

“Alright”

The two stepped into the desert.

“It’s good that we don’t get thirsty”

“That’s true, if that is so, we can’t explore after all”

Dehydration symptoms don’t exist in this game.

Just because it’s the desert, it is not like they would receive damage from the temperature.

But since it is hard to walk on sand, it was difficult to say that it is easy to explore, but the two passed through the sand dunes, and moves forward slowly but surely.

“There’s nothing~”

“From how it looks that is”

Because there are many sand dunes, there might be something if they passed through them

“For the meantime, let’s move ahead”

“Okay”

They didn’t let out Oboro and Syrup.

Firstly, even if Syrup comes out, it couldn’t climb up through the sand dunes.

Because on the way, it was pushed back by the breaking sand.

And looking at Oboro, seeing that it was covered with sand, Sally returned it.

According to Sally, she feels bad for it.

And the two who had climbed over ten sand dunes, they finally saw an oasis.

“We finally see it!”

“Let’s go quick!”

In the scenery that was full of sand, they could see that greens vibrant and shining.

The two went to the oasis with light steps.

“How is it? Does it connect to a dungeon?”

“Let’s split up and search around the corners. It’s not that big so it would finish quickly”

The two searched all of the corners of the oasis, but they only figured out that there was nothing.

“Mu~... there’s nothing”

“Unfortunately, it seems so”

“You want to take a little break?”

“Let’s do that. I’m also a little bit tired”



Sally took a stretch.

Both Sally and Maple had already gone through a long battle today.

They couldn't be blamed if they were tired.

Maple lied down and sloppily looked around.

"n~... n? Sally! Someone's coming!"

Maple stood up and readied her large shield.

Sally also reacted to that voice, and stared at the player that was going towards them while holding her dagger.

"Ohh... someone's first huh. On top of that, it's Maple... my luck isn't that good"

The person who came was a girl wearing Japanese clothes.

She wears a sakura-colored kimono in her upper body.

Also, a purple hakama.

And she is equipped with on katana, so it's easy to figure out her features with a glance.

"That person, she's sixth ranked in the last event"

"Eh?! Really"

"I've checked quite a bit, so I at least know that"

"Ahh, excuse me while you're talking, but... if it's alright, can you let me off"

It looks like this girl doesn't have the will to fight.

Although it is unknown if she really feels like that.

"...what would you do if we say no?"

"In that case... it can't be helped. I'll make sure that I'd take one of you with me"

The girl said 'one of you', but her consciousness was towards Sally.

Maple was readying her self so that she could attack or defend anytime.

"With that, the one who remained would get all the medals so it's quite favorable for us"

Sally whispered.

"..... ah!"

"Let's do it?"

"Let's do it, huh?"

The two looked at the girl at the same time.

"[Super Acceleration]!"

The girl escaped with full power.

She ran away without looking back as fast as she could.

"[Super Acceleration]!"

Sally chased after her with full strength.

She chased after her as if to look at a prey.

"W-Wait for me~!"

Maple chased after them with her full strength.

She chased after them with the speed of a tortoise.

"Why do you have [Super Acceleration]...!!"

"Did you look down on me?"

The two's super acceleration ended. The place where they are was a valley surrounded by sand dunes. There's no place to escape.

The girl also reluctantly drew her katana.

In fact, she thought that she could win if the opponent isn't Maple.

After all, she was sixth.

“[First of the Blades – Kagerou]”

The girl's appearance shook and disappeared.

And, the next instant, she appeared in front of her.

The katana that was swung sideways cuts through Sally's torso.



“Ha...?!!”

The girl was surprised.

The thing that Sally was disappeared in front of her as if she melted into air.

“Everyone, they react like that at first you know”

Red effects scatters from the girl’s body.

Because Sally doesn’t have that much attack power, the damage isn’t that big, but she slashed through her stomach while passing through her side.

And, Sally once again took distance.

“If you don’t defeat me before Maple comes, it looks bad”

Sally said to the girl.

“Ku!... [First of the Blades – Kagerou]”

The girl once again approached Sally with fast speed.

And, her katana slashes through her just like before.

“That, I saw it before”

It was a strange sight.

The katana that slashes through close distance was dodged by Sally by charging while crouching making it only cut the air.

Sally continued like that and ran towards the woman’s left side with a low posture.

“Gu...!”

Red effects scatter from the woman's feet.

"I didn't think, that you were this strong..."

"Well, thanks"

The two turned around and faced each other.

Sally didn't attack from her side.

It was to aim for when her opponent breaks its posture when she dodges the attacks.

If she receives a counterattack, it would be over.

Although, her opponent doesn't know about that though.

"...I can only use my whole strength huh"

The girl who said that with a low voice changed her air.

No, even her appearance changed.

Her beautiful black hair changes to a snow white, and her black eyes were dyed in scarlet.

Around the girl, effects with sakura colors just like in her kimono shines.

"....."

Sally also stops saying gibberish and heightens her concentration to the limit.

This is Sally's best trump card.

An absolute power that anyone else couldn't imitate.

"[Last of the Blades – Oborozuki]"

Invisible consecutive attacks had attacked Sally.

Because of their speed, the blade trembles, as if they disappeared.

It would be impossible to see those blades through vision.

“...!!”

The one who whispered softly was the Japanese clothed girl.

The invisible consecutive attacks couldn't catch Sally.

She could only follow the somewhat decided movements until the skill ends when consecutive attack skills are activated.

'Hit', 'Hit', she swings her blade while praying.

Sally had dodged these consecutive attacks.

The movement of her feet.

The movement of her eyes.

The movement of her arms.

The movement of her shoulders.

The sound of the blade cutting air.

Using all of that information, she predicted the movement of the blade, and dodges within skin length.

For her opponent, it should be weird as it can be. The attacks she did was being dodged using the least amount of movement right in front of her

That's right, it was as if.

She could see that the blades were dodging Sally instead.

The twelve consecutive attacks that each have killing strength ended.

After the girl had looked at Sally, she smiled pleasantly and collapsed to her back.

“I lost. Do it with a single thought”

The color of her hair and eyes also returned.

The aura also disappeared.

“In my part, it was quite dangerous”

“Next time, I’ll make sure I hit you”

At that time, when Sally was about to swing down her dagger.

“AHHHHHHHH!! Wait, I cant stopppppppppppp!!!”

The two instinctively turned towards the place where the scream was coming from, and there they saw a black object rolling down the sand dune while catching up sand.

“Eh! Wait! Maple! W-Wait!!”

That’s right, that object was Maple.

The only thing that she could be praised for was that she had unequipped her large shield.

And, it is already not a situation that she could stop even if she were told to wait.

Maple flies to where the two was.

She collapsed while catching up sand big time.

The three of them, it took a long time for them to do something about this situation.

And, within that blank instant, a change happened beneath their feet.

“Ha?!!”

“Ku! I can’t escape!”

“Eh?? Eh??”

The three reacted in their own ways, and got devoured by quicksand with tremendous speed.

There was two who was able to fall on their feet after taking their balance mid air.



One of them was thrown into the ground while her armor echoed.

Of course, it's Maple.

Fortunately, it was not that high so the damage was zero.

"W-What happened?"

"A dungeon that reacts with the number of people... I guess~. It suddenly responded when Maple fell after all"

Looking at Sally who tried to hold her head to think of what to do, everyone noticed.

To the fact that the three's hand were connected with a black chain.

""""Eh?""""

Sally's right hand to the Japanese clothed girl.

Sally's left hand to Maple.

The only hands that were free were the girl's right hand and Maple's left hand.

The length of the chain was a meter and a little bit, they shouldn't be able to move as usual.

And for the three, it took a little bit of time to understand the situation.

# Chapter 36

## Defense Specialized and Under the Quicksand

“n~... it doesn't seem that it can be removed”

\*GashaGasha\*, Sally tried pulling the chains, but it did not seem that it would get torn off.

“There is a button in my hand you know?”

“There's also in mine”

“I also have... I didn't notice because of panicking”

The result of talking with the three of them, they decided to push the one Sally had. When the button was pushed, a blue plate that is similar to status screen floated in the air.

[Chains of Restraint]

Cursed chains that connect three targets.

The three targets who is connected has only one destiny, and one death connects to everyone's death.

[Indestructible]

“Uwa!... so severe”

Currently, the one who has the most danger is Sally. Not only it is a situation where she is not able to properly dodge, her HP is also low.

The same thing was shown even if someone else pushed the button.

“I'll protect you for sure”

Maple said while readying her large shield.

“Un. I’m counting on you”

The two nodded at each other.

It was like their trust can be seen with the naked eye.

“I’m really out of place here. Un”

“...a temporary truce then”

“Ahh, let’s do that. Honestly, I don’t want to fight anymore...”

The japanese clothed girl took a breath, and introduced herself.

The girl’s name is Kasumi.

Just like how she appears, she is good at fighting using a katana.

Since it would be a waste of concentration for the fight that would be hard, she stopped speaking formally.

“Then... should we explore for the meantime?”

“Let’s do that!”

“Ahh, that should be good. Nothing will happen if we stay here after all. And also, the chains might get removed after clearing the dungeon”

The three decided to go down the stairs made of sandstone in front of them.

“Depending on the boss, we might be finished”

“Let’s just pray that it doesn’t have an area attack”

Kasumi and Sally went down the stairs while being cautious. Maple was restlessly looking around.

“Doesn’t it feel humid?”

“Eh? Ah~... it might be”

“The walls also became a cave’s walls. It was made well up until earlier, but... this is uneven”

The place where the stairs connect was a wide space.

Rocks that can be seen in limestone caves covered the ceiling, and the droplets of water falling down from those echoed.

The ground made with rocks with blue hues, and the slimy walls don’t look very pretty. Because even the floors were slimy, it was hard to walk on it, and it looks like they would have a hard time exploring.

“From how it looks, there’s no monsters?”

“I, guess so. Doesn’t seem to be any of them?”

They could not hear any sounds in the wide space other than the water dripping.

“Let’s move forward. I don’t know where the goal would be... but it looks complicated”

There were several forks extending from the from the space they are in right now.

And each of them has high ceilings. It has the same height with the space right now, about 10 meters.

“We need to be careful from surprise attacks from above huh”

“I also think so. The probability of that is probably hih”

“Then, I’ll be ready to block alright!”

They chose one of the forks, and advanced deeper. After advancing for a while, the three came to a wide space again.

“This place too... there’s nothing”

“Does it only makes us cautious? The encounters are too low. For it to be zero...”

“It’s an exploration type dungeon, and in exchange for having only a boss monster, it would take long?”

Maple said what she had in mind, and the two nodded to that possibility.

“There’s a lot of forks too... it really does seem to take a lot of time”

The three walked once again.

To the right, to the left, up and down, they walked around, but they couldn’t find the boss room at all.

And, they had not encountered any monster even once.

“Ah~ ... it’s a dead end...”

“Fuu~ ... let’s turn back, huh”

“.....n? Wait, the two of you!”

Maple stopped the two.

The place she pointed at was a small water puddle right next to the dead end’s wall.

Bubbles were appearing from there. It is something that one would miss if they were not being attentive, but Maple felt the slight difference within this cave that has no change.

That was also a coincidence, but it was a huge achievement.

The three approached and looked at it, and in there, one medal was shining with a silver color submerged.

When Maple picked that up, the bubbles stopped appearing. It’s probably a setting for it to be found.

“Uwa... I didn’t notice it at all”

“It’s also the same with me”

Kasumi said that it is Maple's since she was the one who found it, and made that stance continuous from here on.

Meaning, the one who found it shall have the item.

"With this, there's now the possibility that this dungeon doesn't have a boss"

"That's true, the possibility of that is now higher"

"What do you mean?"

"After all, if there's a boss, they should probably place the medal there right? It was like that up until now"

"I see, now that you said it"

Because of that, the reason why they found a medal here, means all the same that this dungeon might be more of an exploration type.

"We'd need to check carefully the walls and the floor from now on huh... fuu~... so tiresome~"

"I'll also do my best to search. I want to at least bring back one after all"

This time for real, the three turned away from the dead end.

This cave has many dead ends, and on top of that, the scenery does not change so it is easy to get lost, making the exploration not go well as they have thought.

"I'm probably more good at dungeons that can be easily ended with fights~"

"Especially in my case!"

"Ahh, I'm also better at fighting"

They talked while walking, and the three came to a wide space once again.

Its structure was as if it was an ant's nest.

But although that was said, there was not even one ant anywhere.

“Ah!! Something’s shining!”

“Is it a treasure?”

“It might be”

The three went to the middle of the open space.

And in there, there was ground that is shining like the milky way. It is very different from the rocks up until now. The three crouched down and observed that which extends as if to divide the room.

“It’s beautiful, but... it is not a gemstone. It might be similar to gold sand”

“Ahh, that’s true. But, it doesn’t seem like we can get it”

Kasumi tried to do something about it using her katana, but just like when she would attack an indestructible thing, it was deflected.

If there were able to mine this shining ground that is also quite wide, the three of them would surely get materials for each of them.

Since it is a huge amount.

“U~n... something like it would be able to be taken depending on the time? Just like the time in the bamboo forest”

“That possibility is high”

“Bamboo forest?”

Kasumi does not know about the bamboo forest, so Maple explained it.

“Limited to night time huh... I didn’t walk during the night so I didn’t notice”

“What’s the time right now?”

“Wait a minute... it’s five thirty. Even if we were able to get out of this cave, it’s probably already in the evening”

“If that is so, we probably need to stay for a night here huh”

“That’s quite hard huh”

They had not found means for escaping so it could not be helped.

The three left the space, and went exploring once again.

They walked while checking the walls or floors, but they had not seen any medal after that once.

“n?”

“What is it? Sally”

“Did you saw something?”

“No, right now, I felt like there was a small earthquake...”

“Really? I didn’t notice it though”

“I also didn’t. Is that true?”

“U~n... I might be just tired. I fought with Fake Maple today after all”

“Fake Maple? What is that?”

“Ahh, you know, that is——”

Maple told her about the doppelganger boss.

Kasumi listened to that very curiously and interestingly.

“Well, that is... quite a hard boss fight. Exploring was all I did after all~”

“Then, I want to hear about your explorations~!”

“Hahaha, alright. Well, let me think... where should I start...”

Circumstantially, the bond between the three who was connected by chains deepened.

They had gotten along with each other, that even Sally thought of stop defeating Kasumi.

Six hours has already passed.

The fifth day is right around the corner.



# Chapter 37

## Defense Specialized and Outside the Game

This is the real world that is slightly back in time.

About this room where the ones who managing the game controls each game so that there would be no trouble.

“AAAaAAAaaAAHHH!!! [Silver Wing] was done in!!”

One man shouted.

Everyone in the room reacted to that voice.

“Ha? [Silver Wing]? That guy wasn’t set to be defeated by players right?”

“Yeah, we even packed it skills with high killing abilities, it has high HP, high MP, and high status. It’s the lump of our malice”

“Who is it? Who had defeated it?”

“I’ll show the video now...”

When the man operated the machine, the video plays on one monitor.

Monster bird with white shining wings.

Against it, a duo of a girl wearing black armor, and a girl wearing a blue garment.

“Maple?! Are you serious?! Oi, oi, [Silver Wing] is impossible for her right?!”

“She should be lacking mobility! I’d understand if she’s against [Earth Dragon] though...”

‘Impossible, impossible’, with those words flying back and forth, the battle started.

“The shards... well, that’d happen huh”

“Such a crazy defense as usual”

Everyone in the room, they were taking glances at that screen while managing the events.

After a while, the scene in question played.

“She’s the problem! This blue coat had become Maple’s mobility!”

It was being shown in the screen Maple moving at high-speed using [Cover Move].

It looks like that was out of their expectations.

Everyone looked at the screen intently.

“...that girl is [Sally], places importance on AGI, and her skill composition is very wide and shallow. The strong abilities she have are only [Mirage] and [Ocean]”

One man checked Sally’s information and provides it.

“Well, it’s normal huh. No, if compared to Maple, everyone would be normal”

“That’s true”

In front of everyone who was having a wry laugh.

Sally’s abnormality shows itself.

“...I’ll take that back. This one’s also awful. Maybe, she’s even worse than Maple”

“She has no prediction type skill right?!!”

“Y-Yeah. She don’t”

Sally who was being shown in the video was dodging Silver Wings’ attacks with inhuman evasion ability.

With those movements that were as if she had really predicted them, voices of surprise

were raised from here and there.

“How is she dodging that?”

“Even if the if the shards are on a stop, it’s difficult to get through there, oi”

And, everyone in the room watched that fight finish in a daze.

And there, finally, one of them raised a voice.

“This is bad!! Doesn’t this mean they would be able to take [Mythical Beast’s Egg]?!”

“What’s inside?!”

“It’s fox and tortoise. Well... it’s still better”

“What about the bird and wolf?”

“It’s in the [Sea Emperor]’s place. It’s set that that guy wouldn’t leave from there... well, that should be alright...”

After saying that, he leaned his back against the chair as if he was exhausted.

“Ah~ ... impossible~, it’s impossible that that’s even like that after being nerfed~”

“Oi, one’s who are free, re-check the medal skills! Re-check if there are skills that can be used strangely!”

““Understood!”“

“.....they should be good enough to be the last boss instead...”

“Ahh... that might be true”

Fatigue could be heavily felt from that voice.

Maple and Sally never knew about this happening.

# Chapter 38

## Defense Specialized and Encounter

“I think that we can’t leave this cave today...”

“If so, we need to find a place to sleep then”

Adding a safe place to sleep in the exploration objectives, the three went through right and left through the hallways.

“I just wish that we can coincidentally find the exit~...”

“I also think that’s for the best... I’m already tired for today”

Maple and Sally were very tired. They even want to stop exploring right away and sleep.

And, when they saw another wide room through the hallway after numerous times.

“E-Earthquake?!”

“I can also feel it now!”

The ground shook so much that they could feel it with their body.

And, \*GuchoGucho\*, a disgusting sound could be heard from the wide room ahead.

While preparing to fight, the three looked at the wide room.

And from a different path from the three’s path, that appeared.

Judging from the height of the ceiling, it has a height of more or less 5 meters, and length of more or less 7 meters.

A giant snail crawls out to the wide room.

It seems like it didn't notice the three, it disappeared into another path.

".....this is bad. That thing's bad"

"It didn't have an HP Bar..."

"H-How bad is it?"

Maple cautiously asked the two who were having a serious face.

"Since it has no HP Bar... it means, it can't be defeated"

"If we don't find a safety area and encounter it... it's the end"

The three's body is connected by chains.

They can't let anyone become a decoy.

"For the meantime, let's leave this place. Before it returns"

"Un, let's do that"

"Then, that way should be good?"

The three went through a different way from where they came from, and different from the way that the snail came from very quickly.

"I see... that's why this dungeon is in this shape"

Sally whispered.

This dungeon is like an ant's nest where there are a lot of extending paths and dead ends.

And all of the places have high ceilings, without any unneeded obstacles.

And, the players are connected by chains.

It means, it is made that it would be easy for the snail to move, and hard for the players to run away.

“Maybe, this dungeon’s difficulty would change depending on the time”

It was as Kasumi has said.

This dungeon would change into a monster’s nest where the snail lives in after 6 pm.

And the time which that would end also exists, but the three doesn’t know when.

And, as the time passes, the sound of the ground shaking becomes louder.

“I-I wonder if there’s more than one?”

“.....maybe”

Sally heightened her hearings, and tried to find where the sound comes from.

She can’t hear the \*GuchoGucho\* sound nearby.

It seems like it isn’t anywhere near.

Even so, it is also true that they need to be continuously on guard.

And that thing, is the reason that reduces Sally’s concentration.

And when they have advanced through several branching ways, that happened.

“...!!”

The instant that they turned to the corner.

The snail was there.

“Run! We’re turning back!”

Kasumi and Sally started to run, but Maple couldn’t keep up with them.

“Oh... god!!”

Faster than Sally pulls up Maple, the snail closed in.

The snail shook its body while splashing out a liquid that was very sticky.

“Ku!!”

Thanks to the large shield devouring the liquid, Maple was barely able to avoid the liquid.

“Sally, we’re running! Use [Super Acceleration]!”

“!! I got it!”

The last resort they had decided in the case where they cannot escape by any other means.

““[Super Acceleration!]””

The two’s body accelerated.

Maple’s body was dragged.

A typical player would receive damage from this and die.

If so, they would all die.

However, Maple is different.

If it is Maple, she can survive receiving no damage.

But even so, it isn’t something comfortable.

That is why, it is the last resort.

\*GachanGachan!\*, the armor sounded.

Maple instinctively put away her shield, but she couldn’t make it on time to operate to put away her armor.

“How is it from behind?!”

“It’s alright! It isn’t able to keep up!”

The three could somehow successfully run away.

However, for a while, they can't use [Super Acceleration]. They would probably be ready to die when they encounter it while it is on cooldown.

And in that situation, they started to hear the \*GuchoGucho\* sound without any time to rest.

"...ku!... it's also coming from a different direction!"

"Here!"

They ran through left and right of the branching paths.

Maple removed her equipments and was carried by Sally.

It was their usual style.

"As I've thought! That snail, it's reacting to sounds!"

When the sound of Maple's armor disappeared, the \*GuchoGucho\* sound that they could hear started to go away.

"How is it? Is it there?"

"...I think it's not anywhere nearby, I guess?"

"Haa~... we've escaped..."

The three leaned against the wall.

It cannot be said that it is said in the middle of a path, but it is many times better than sitting on a dead end.

"We should somehow... find the exit"

"Un, I guess so..."

Their goal was decided without any need to consult.

The longer they stay, the more dangerous it will be.



And for that, they need to find the exit quickly.

“It seems like this dungeon doesn’t have a boss... we should be content just finding a medal or an equipment just like Maple...”

“Ahh, let’s do that. There is that snail... this dungeon’s concept is probably exploration”

“You mean like... this whole dungeon is a boss room?”

“Well, I guess so”

Finishing their conversation, Sally prepared to depart.

“Let’s go before we’re found. The entrance is from above... so I think that the exit’s below, I guess?”

“That might be the case. It isn’t for sure though...”

“Then, let’s go down. It should be better than going up”

There were some paths that were slightly going down. They were planning on advancing through those paths as soon as they find one.

The three went deeper and deeper.

Along the way, they were able to see the appearance of the snails.

Seeing them, Sally became sure.

To the fact that those snails are faster than Maple.

Meaning, they cannot escape them by running away normally.

In the case where they meet it in a corner.

There is a time lag before Sally carries Maple.

And if they are caught by its sticky liquid in that instant, they would get caught.

However, Sally would not be able to carry Maple if she was holding her large shield.

They wished that they would not encounter it at a very close range.

“Fuu~ ... I should concentrate...”

Forcing her tired body, Sally heightened her concentration.

Sally's reconnaissance is the three's lifeline.

And after advancing very carefully trying to not make any sound, the appearance of the cave started to change.

"How pretty..."

"Ahh... that's true"

"I somehow feel a little at ease..."

The violet crystals in the walls were shining.

Those things here and there could not be gathered, but the three's third heart became a little healed because of their fantastical light.

And in addition.

"The ceiling... became lower?"

As Sally has said, the ceiling became lower in some places. It was barely enough height for the snails to pass through.

"But... the sound of the ground shaking became louder"

"Just thinking that the environment changed while their numbers increased, it would be more of an advantage for us"

The three advanced.

The three wished to escape from this place today if possible.

While praying that they would not hear the \*GuchoGucho\* sound, they started exploring while being careful of a pincer attack.

# Chapter 39

## Defense Specialized and Crystal Cave

“Well then... if there’s a safety area or not...”

Sally whispered.

Sally realized that she is starting to lose her concentration.

It is not strange if a fatal mistake would occur anytime.

And, the meaning of Sally who was in charge of reconnaissance having a mistake means the death of everyone.

“I need to do my best...”

\*PechiPechi\*, she slapped her cheeks, tries to regain her spirits and heighten her hearing.

“I hear a faint sound from the left. There isn’t any problem to the right”

The other two tried to hear it, but they couldn’t hear it at all, hidden by the sound of the ground shaking.

It seems like they could not act as a substitute for her.

“Let’s hurry, it would be bad if it appears on the right”

“Ahh, I got it”

“Un, let’s go!”

The three of them advanced to the right path with a fast pace.

The appearance of the snail wasn’t there, and they were able to advance deeper.

If they had advanced to the left, at that time, they would have been found by the snail.  
Sally's reconnaissance had barely not lost its effects.

Advancing for a while, the three ended up in a dead end.  
However, it was not completely a bad thing.

"Something's there!"

The place where Kasumi was pointing at was a large purple crystal.  
And as if it was sealed within it, there was an old key and a cherry blossom shaped earring.  
When the three approached it, that purple crystal had an HP Bar.  
It means, it is possible to destroy it.

"It's likely that we need the key... I think that we should take it..."

"Un, I think so too"

"Then... I'll do it"

Kasumi drew her katana and made a stance.

"[Fourth of the Blades – Whirlwind]!"

She slashes twice upwards and twice downwards.  
The high-speed consecutive attacks hits the crystal as if it was sucked into it.  
The crystal was not able to endure those consecutive attacks, \*Parin\*, it broke together with the sound of a glass breaking.  
Kasumi picks up the key and earring that fell to the ground and checked it.

"The key... it doesn't have a description. The earring is just an equipment. It doesn't seem like it has something to do on how to escape from here"

She said that, and let the other two check it.

“Un, it really seems so”

“The key... where should we use it?”

“Who knows...? For the meantime, this earring will be Kasumi’s”

Sally gave the earring to Kasumi.

After that, they talked for a while, and the key was also given to Kasumi.

“Well then... let’s continue exploring”

This place was a dead end, it doesn’t have a place to runaway to.

The three moved back to where they came from in a hurry.

And, what the three found after turning back and continue exploring for a while was a side hole near the ceiling.

That thing that was in the middle of the pathways was something that they did not see before.

It was natural for the three to think that there is something inside that.

“That, can we enter it?”

“U~n... I think that we can’t reach it using [Leap]...”

[Leap] was not enough to enter that side hole placed 10 meters from the ground.

And when the three was thinking, that time.

“.....wait, be quiet!... it came!”

Sally had heard the \*GuchoGucho\* sounds with her ears.

On top of that, it was coming from both sides.

“I was cautious to not get in the middle!”

They were not caught in the middle not once up until now, the chances of meeting them were slim from the start, and Sally had completely read their positions.

The sounds where the sounds of the ground shaking were coming from, she had guessed their distance from them using that, and she was able to choose the best pathway.

And right now, that crumbled for the first time.

She had read wrongly the movement of one snail.

“We can only enter through that hole...!”

“Sally, use [Leap]! I’ll do something about the rest!”

There was already no time on hearing what Kasumi was planning.

The snails have appeared from both sides.

“[Leap]!”

Sally prayed that they might have reached it, but it was really not enough, counting the weight of additional two people.

“[Third of the Blades – Lone Moon]!”

Kasumi’s body accelerated mid-air.

Being supported by the system, Kasumi’s body launched upwards.

Of course, pulling the two with her.

Kasumi’s body spins once in the air leaving the effect of the slash, and fell while

advancing forward.

That was just exactly where the hole was.

The three plunged into the hole as if to roll in it. Sally immediately checked the snails below.

The snails tried to spurt out their sticky liquid, but it seems like it couldn't reach them.

"Doesn't seem like they have ways to come up... I think"

Sally was relieved, fell to the ground and leaned her back on the crystal wall.

"Haha... thank goodness it worked..."

"Thanks, Kasumi. We couldn't reach it with just my [Leap]"

"Un! It was amazing!"

"The time of getting stiff when Lone Moon misses is very long, you know... if we couldn't reach it, I wouldn't have been able to move and we'd get defeated by the snails... it was also a gamble for me"

Her gamble paid off.

Thanks to that, the three were able to have their long awaited break.

The hole wasn't large enough for the snail to enter.

"It's also good to rest, but... would you like to take a glance ahead? There's no guarantee that there would be no other monsters..."

".....I guess so. That should be good too. I have completely thought that there are only snail monsters here"

"Un, I also agree with that"

The three agreed.

The three stood up, and advanced through the hole.

The hole was connected to a circular hall.

It was about 5 meters away from the ground, and the room has six pathways.

Just looking from far away, one can tell that it was high enough for a snail to pass through.

And, about right ahead of the hole the three were in, there was a wall with a door.

Its size was 2 meters high.

It wasn't a giant door for boss rooms up until now.

"Is that the exit?"

"Wait a second. [Far Vision]!..... there is a keyhole. Most probably, the key earlier should be for that. I'm sure that there's something in there"

"Then... you wanna go? There isn't any sound of snails coming from the paths too"

"Really?"

"Are you sure?"

Being told by the two, Sally checked again with her ears.

She couldn't hear the sounds coming from any pathways.

She listened carefully for several minutes, but in the end, she couldn't hear the sounds of the snails.

"It's alright. I couldn't hear anything"

"Then... let's go"

"Un, let's do that"

The three jumped down to the ground.

Maple and Kasumi trust Sally's reconnaissance ability.

Sally have absolute confidence in her own ability.

And there was no mistake from the answer that she had using that ability.

There were no snails coming from the pathways, no——there was no monsters at all.

However, as a conclusion.



They should have really taken a break in the hole they were before.

They didn't notice that their thinking had narrowed.

That's right.

The three did not think that the environment would change as soon as they go down at all.

The crystal grew at a fast pace, blocking the hole.

And from all the pathways, they started to hear that sound.

That disgusting \*GuchoGucho\* sound.

"T-This is bad!"

"What should we do!"

"Let's run for it! That's all we can do!"

Maple was fully equipped right now.

However, they have no time to wait for her to remove her equipments. The snails had already started to crawl out of the pathways.

The distance to the door was 25 meters.

It was not a significant distance, but the three felt like it was so far away.

# Chapter 40

## Defense Specialized and Escape Plan

““[Super Acceleration]!”“

Sally and Kasumi's body suddenly accelerated and approached the door while pulling Maple. Three snails appeared on each side, and two snails appeared diagonally ahead. There was no way that those two snails would let the three of them go toward the door, and obstructing their way by scattering their sticky liquid.

“Ku...! to the left!”

“Yeah!”

Sally and Kasumi instinctively changed their direction to the place where the ground is okay.

Maple was being dragged so she is unable to do the same thing, so she took care of the sticky liquid by using [Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)].

The snail's speed is above Maple's but they far off Sally and Kasumi's speed.

As long as they could avoid the sticky liquid, it is very easy to reach the door.

“Yosh! Kasumi!”

“Yeah! Leave it to me!”

Kasumi quickly took out the key from her inventory and tried to put it in the lock.

But at that time.

“Uwwa!!”

\*Picha\*, with that sound, something reached out from the snail.

That thing that is best described as tentacles stole the key from her hand.

After the tentacles had placed the key on top of the its head, it went back inside its body.

“W-We need to take it back!”

“We can’t reach it with [Leap]...!”

It was a possible height if it was only Sally, but it is impossible with Maple and Kasumi.

“We can’t just stay here! It’s coming!”

The snails slowly approached. They would get hit by the sticky liquid if they just stayed there. Also, those tentacles might reach out again.

“Kasumi! What about [Lone Moon]?! ”

“It’s impossible unless there’s a chance! I’ll get defeated while I get stiff!”

While that happened, the ground gradually got covered by sticky liquid.

There is not much time left.

“.....Sally! Let’s charge straight towards the side hole!”

It was Maple who raised her voice. Sally looked at Maple, and she saw a certain confidence in her eyes.

“...I got it, let’s try it!”

She dashed together with Kasumi.

To return to the side hole, they must pass through the snails.

The snails have already surrounded the three.

“Leave this one to me! [Sixth of the Blades – Homura]!”

The blazing blade was swung down and the flames broke through the snails.

There was no damage but she knew that it would have an intimidating effect for an instant. It was only for an instant, but it was enough for this situation.

After the three had broken through, the snails followed them.

“As I’ve thought! Their movements are simple!”

It was exactly as Maple said.

The snails followed exactly the route that the three passed through.

The other two understood without saying what Maple wanted to do after that.

“[Leap]!”

“[Third of the Blades – Lone Moon]!”

“[Hydra]!”

Each of the three’s skill completed their own task.

Maple made the snails flinch, and at that chance, they reached the snail’s shell part thanks to Kasumi and Sally.

Maple’s skill helped Kasumi pass her time of getting stiff.

“If it’s here, there’s no sticky liquid!... also”

Sally looked ahead and saw the snails approaching, moving similarly.

One of them has the key on its head.

By running at a straight line, the snails chasing after them and the door are almost in the same line.

Luckily, the snail that has the key seemed to be late, and its body is a little on the side.

“We’re going to go and get the key without being obstructed by the shell now!”

“[Leap]!”

Because the position of the shell is higher than its head, they were able to steal the key by jumping down.

“Yosh!”

“Hurry!”

However, the state of the ground that they landed on was too bad so the loss of time was inevitable.

They were able to reach the door but they allowed the snail to give time to reach out its tentacles and scatter sticky liquid.

Even so.

“[Cover]!”

Maple blocked that using her large shield.

Maple who is defending would not allow any attack pass her by.

“I won’t let it happen twice!”

“Yosh! It opened!”

When Sally opened the door, they entered the room as if to roll inside.

The next instant they entered the room, the door disappeared, and the possibility of being attacked by the snail from earlier also disappeared.

And, at the same time, the chains that bound the three broke into pieces and disappeared.

That only means that they have cleared the dungeon.

“Fu~... we survived...”

“Yeah... I’m tired...”

“I don’t want to see snails anytime soon...”

There are four treasure boxes in this room, and one magic circle.

“The treasure box... let’s open it”

“Yes! Let’s do that”

The three of them opened a treasure box each.

“It’s a spear here~!”

“I got a large shield”

“It’s a staff in mine”

The three of them took out what’s inside and showed it to each other. The only thing that is useful within the three is the large shield.

“Maple, it’s Maple who should get this. There’s nothing that I can use it for...”

Kasumi said and gave the large shield to Maple.

“Is it okay?”

“Yeah, I do not mind”

Although it is not enough for an exchange, Maple and Sally gave her the spear and the staff.

“Fumu... it’s a good equipment”

Kasumi whispered seeing the equipment’s stats.

It had stats that players who can equip it would really like.

“There’s still one treasure box remaining too”

Sally went to the remaining treasure box.

The other two followed her as well, and peeked behind Sally who is opening the box.

“n~... three scrolls, that’s it”

She checked whether there is a medal, and took out the scrolls from the treasure box.

“They’re all the same scroll. It can make you learn the [Encourage] skill”

Sally gave the two scrolls.

Putting that on their inventories, the work in this room is finished.

“Well, let’s go out then?”

“Alright... this cave was so troublesome~... I’m tired”

The three of them entered the magic circle and left the cave.

The reason why they were able to safely leave this cave was thanks to each of their uniqueness.

If they were not able to cover their missing parts, the results might have been different.

The three returned to the desert before.

“Haa~... it’s the night sky...”

“It’s not like we were in there that long though”

“Yeah, but for some reason, I’m happy”

The night sky that they were not able to see inside the cave is full of the sense of liberation.

“Oh wait... we, we planned on fighting Kasumi but... I don't feel like fighting anymore”

Sally did not feel on asking for a fight after cooperating with each other.

Of course, Maple thinks so as well.

“I also don't feel like fighting... well, I didn't do so in the first place”

“I know! If it's like that, let's register as friends!”

“n, I do not mind”

After finishing registering friends with each other, the three of them lied on the ground and looked up to the sky.

Whether is it because of their tired or from relief, they thought of being like that for a while.

“Kasumi... what are you planning after this?”

“Let me see... for the meantime, I think I'll go on different ways from you two. We registered as friends too, so we can still meet after this event”

“It's okay to go with us though...”

“Un, it's okay!”

“Haha... I'm happy, but I'll refrain from it. If two golden medals are in one place, the amount of battle will increase too”

What Kasumi said were right.

Other players know that Kasumi and Maple have a golden medal.

Of course, there are many who targets that.

The more it is if there was two of them.



“I see... it’s too bad, but it can’t be helped huh”

“Yeah... yo, tto! I’ll go now”

Kasumi stood up and brushes of the sand.

“Do your best okay!”

“The two of you too”

Kasumi waved her hand to the two on last time, and left them.

Just like that, the strange cooperative fight closed its curtains.

# Chapter 41

## Defense Specialized and The Fifth Day of the Event

“Let’s go too”

“I guess so”

A while after Kasumi left, the two stood up.  
Their goal is to find a place to sleep tonight.

“We must leave the desert first...”

It is very dangerous to sleep in the desert where they do not have anything to protect themselves.

The two started to walk.

“It’s so vast~...”

“I agree...”

Although they went over and over sand dunes, the same scenery only continues.

There are huge sand dunes here and there making it hard to see far away so they do not know where to go to leave the desert.

Also, it was not like there were no monsters.

Honestly, the two of them were wishing to avoid battles.

“You like to rest for a while after going over this sand dune?”

“Un, let’s do that”

They used their hands to climb the steep slope.

And after that, the scenery there was a little different to that up until now.

“There’s no sand dunes?”

“It’s so flat!”

It is a desert that has no undulations that have spread ahead of them.

There is not even one sand dune, and if it was during the night, they must have been able to see far away.

“You want to go this side?”

“Let’s do that! This one looks easier to walk on”

With their opinions agreeing, the two of them slid down the dune and started to walk again.

“If it was during the day, we might have seen something”

“That’s true. How many days are left in the event again?”

“Three days. And our goal is to collect 9 more medals within that”

“U~n... isn’t it a little difficult?”

“It might be so, if we don’t PK or something”

“U~n... I see”

There was no other way if she insisted, but the difficulty would be the same as finding dungeons because they do not know whether the opponent has a medal or not.

“Well, let’s think about that when we meet players. If they are planning on fighting, we only need to defeat them instead”

“Un, I guess so”

The two continued to walk on the very vast desert.

It is dark so they cannot see well ahead, but because they started to hear the sounds

of shaking leaves, they were able to guess that the end of the desert has come.

“We don’t know what kind of monsters are there, so be careful”

“Okay~!”

About 30 minutes advancing inside the dark forest.

The two found a cave.

“Let’s go inside. And if it is shallow, let’s use it as a base”

“I’ll go first”

The two thought that it might be a deep cave, but it was only a simple cave extending 5 meters deep.

The two laid down, finally able to take their rest.

“Ah~... I’m so tired today”

“Me too...”

The two of them called their own partners.

There is the reason for removing stress, but it is also because they felt sorry for them, neglecting them because there were no opportunities to call them out.

“I’m sorry for not letting you go out”

“I’ll let you level up seriously after the event ends okay”

The two said that, and patted their two familiars, making it happy.

“How about stopping for today, with the forest exploration as the start tomorrow?”

“I’m fine with that”

They decided to take turns on sleeping, and slept early. They wanted to rest as much as they could in this day.

Each of them hugged Syrup and Oboro and fell asleep.

6 o'clock in the next day.

They are somewhat relieved from their fatigue, and the two's motivation for exploring returned.

After finishing a light breakfast, they left the cave and started to explore the forest.

"Turn over a new leaf! Let's go with fighting spirits!"

"Ohh~!"

They have explored forests many times up until now, but this forest was an ordinary forest.

And the reason for that is, searching for about two hours, they were not able to find anything.

"We don't know the special condition it needs too..."

"Would you like to, leave this forest now?"

Sally thought for a while with Maple's suggestion, and nodded to show affirmation.

"Where should we go?"

"It's not like we can turn back so, let's just move ahead. There might be places that have yet to be explored too"

The two's way of exploration is to explore the deep parts, so they do not know whether or not there is something in near the entrance of the forest.

However, it could be said that that would be wishful.

Whether it be dungeon or a normal field, important things are hidden in the deep, and

with strong monsters protecting them.

There is no reason to place medals in treasure box near the entrance.

And when they approached the entrance of the forest, the two felt something.

“The sound of waves?”

“Un, I can also hear it”

They saw the end of the forest, and up ahead, the two saw completely white sand and a magnificent sea. Various kinds of fishes joyfully swam deep under the clear sea, and there were beautiful corals as if they were flowers blooming, coloring the sea.

A small island could be seen far away.

The light of the sun reflects on the sea surface, it was shining.

“Oh~ ... it’s the sea this time huh~ ... this field is really wide~”

“There’s so many things so it’s fun!”

Within this 5 days, the two explored many places like grassland, forest, snow mountain, and caves.

But even so, they were able to meet new landscapes so it is very worth exploring.

The reason why the two were able to meet so many sceneries was mostly because the two of them are eager to explore.

Every day, the continued to explore for many hours, and as a result, they are able to meet new dungeons and landscapes.

And it was because the two of them were lucky that the dungeon was yet to be captured.

“But... I can’t explore in the sea~”

“For the meantime, I’ll go explore underwater okay”

“Un, do your best”

\*BashaBasha\*, Sally entered the sea and after taking a deep breath, she dives.

Sally can dive for a maximum of 40 minutes.

She would not be coming out for a while.

“What should I do while waiting... I can’t fish properly too~... we explored the forest as well... u~n, should I search around whether there is something buried in the sand?”

Saying that, Maple started to digging sand.

Changing places, under the sea, Sally was fascinated by the jewel-like fishes.

It was such a beautiful sight.

And because all that she could look at the day before were sticky snails, the more that they looked beautiful.

However, she cannot be just looking at them. She investigates the spaces between the corals and under the sand in the bottom of the sea.

It’s a work that will take a considerable amount of time without skills, but with Sally’s skill build, it is possible to do it quickly.

“Puha...! Yossh, 1 medal get! Are there only a few people who have [Diving] and [Swimming]? It looks like it would be hard to explore in the deep parts”

There was no need to dive to her limits, so she came up once to take a breath.

There are several places in between the corals that continue deep, and the medal from earlier was found there.

Sally searched those places intensively.

Because it is that kind of places that has medals or equipments.

The shallow parts seem to have been already explored, so she searched in the deep parts.

As a result, she was able to find another medal.

“Fuu~... after that is... that island, I think?”

Sally swam towards the island.

That island in the distance where it is impossible for Maple to come to is small, and other than the stairs that continue underground in the middle, there was only one coconut tree.

“For the meantime... let’s go and check”

Sally carefully went down the stairs.

Going down for about a hundred steps, there was an ordinary wooden door.

It does not look as if it is sealed nor has a lock. There is also no magic circles.

Sally carefully opened that.

And, she was surprised to the scenery inside.

There is a beautiful semicircular dome inside.

And in the middle.

There is a familiar old shrine standing silently together with a magic circle.



# Chapter 42

## Defense Specialized and Sea and Sandy Beach

“Uwwa... there’s still something like that...”

Sally whispered as she checked the magic circle and the shrine.

What she points with ‘that’ is of course, the monster bird. Honestly, she wanted to avoid fighting at that level of enemy if possible.

“For the meantime, I should return and... ask Maple’s opinion”

Sally walked back to the stairs, and went above the ground.

Sally have been very focused on her diving exploration that she had never turned around, so here for the first time, she noticed the beach’s situation.

“Maple... what are you doing...”

She could tell even from the small island.

There was a huge sand castle that easily exceeds Sally’s height created there.

“I should... return first...”

\*Bashan\*, Sally who dove into the sea returned to the beach in a hurry.

“Uwa... looking closely, it’s big~”

It is twice Sally’s height.

And from inside, she could hear sounds of people having fun.

When she reached its entrance and peeked from there, there was another person besides Maple.

Red curly hair and spade-shaped earrings, white fair skin and red eyes the same with the hair color. Height is only a little taller than Maple.

Other than the earring equipments, all of the other equipments look as basic gear in a glance.

The characteristic is that, it seem that there is no weapon equipped.

There is no large shield nor sword or staff.

From how it looks, there was weapon equipped.

And that person that Sally have never seen is playing Othello with Maple.

“Ah~! No!”

“Here, perfect~”



The board is full of white.

The color Maple chose is the same color with the equipments that she is proud of.

In short, black. She completely lost.

Maple who was frustrated about it noticed Sally and stood up.

“Welcome back, Sally~!”

“Eh, ahh, un. That’s good but... who?”

“I’m Kanade. I played with Maple from earlier making a castle of sand”

“It was really fun right~”

“Right~”

Sally felt somehow that the two of them are similar.

Their thought patterns must be similar and the two got along with each other instantly.

“Is it okay?”

“I think it’s fine. Right, Kanade?”

“After all, I’m level 5 you know? I’m not bragging but, I’m weak you know?”

Saying that, Kanade showed the status to Sally.

Being level 5 was true.

“I-Is it okay? Letting me see so easily?”

“It’s fine, it’s fine. You’re Sally-san, Maple’s party member right? Then it’s alright!”

Sally did not know what happened while she was exploring, but it seems that Maple has earned significant trust.

And it was also the same otherwise.

Sally also registered as friends with Kanade being pushed by Maple.

Saying that Maple and Kanade are already registered as friends.

“n~ ... you can just call me Sally. Well, if Maple says that it’s okay, fine then. Also...”

“Also?”

“If you attack us, it seems that I can defeat you easily”

Saying that, Sally showed her dagger.

“I-I’ll swear I won’t do such a thing, un”

There is also Kanade around, but Sally told Maple about the dungeon from earlier.

“Eh~ ... I don’t wanna go...”

“I feel the same. But, no one knows what’s inside so... it’s worth entering”

“U~n... I see”

The two thought deeply on what to do, but the one who broke the silence was no other than Kanade.

“If so, I’ll take a look for you! The start point only has a distance of 100 meters from here too”

It was a suggestion with dying as a prerequisite.

The other two said that it was all right without doing that, but Kanade went quickly.

\*BashaBasha\*, swimming until his appearance became small.

“There’s the [Swimming I] too... so I think that it’s enough to reach there though...”

“W-Will it be okay?”

“I don’t know~ ...”

The two, seeing the appearance of reaching the small island, thought of something.

“What do you think?”

“I think that there should be a terrible monster~...”

“Just like that monster bird from before?”

“That’s right!”

However, those were only prediction. Maybe, the destination after teleporting is a room with overflowing treasures.

“If they’re treasures, then Kanade would take it huh?”

“Well, that’s true”

There is no choice of not taking it back if one is in front of a treasure.

And the next teleport destination after that cannot be predicted so they cannot chase.

“Ah~, I died, I died”

At that time, Kanade came out of the forest.

Without hearing the report, the two understood the abilities of the monster inside.

It was because the situation is very similar to the time with the monster bird.

“I shall start my report, Maple-dono”

“Hohou, I’m listening?”

It was a weird flow, but Sally also does it sometimes so she could not say anything.

“The destination after teleporting is underwater. Adding to that, my movements became dull when I was in that water, so I was crushed by a giant squid without being able to do anything”

“I see... then it’s impossible!”

First, if it is underwater, on top of Maple being unable to participate, if the stage is

filled with water just like Sally's [Ocean], then Sally's evasion skills would not be of use.

They did not need to force themselves to challenge.

Courage and recklessness are different things.

"Let's give up this time"

"I also think so"

"Let's end it here after exploring the sea for a while"

Sally looked at the sea while stretching.

There should be some places that she has yet to explore too.

"Want me to help you? I can give you the medals if I find some?"

It was a no-risk high-return suggestion, but normally, such a good suggestion does not exist.

"Kanade, are you serious?"

"Well, I'm fine as long as I have this"

Saying that, Kanade took out a Rubik's cube.

"That is?"

"This is, my reward from an event you know. There was a magic circle connected to a flying island flying around the forest behind... though it already disappeared since I cleared it. Anyways, it's a staff that I got from there"

"That rubik's cube is a staff?!"

"That's right. The teleport destination was an ancient library and... there was a jigsaw puzzle in certain room there. This came out when I finished it. It took me 4 days though"

The Rubik's cube floats on top of Kanade's palm while releasing a faint light.

"This adds a skill"

"He~ ... it's the same with out equipments huh"

"It's skill name is [Akashic Records], it's an interesting skill"

"What does it do?"

Kanade was about to answer Maple's question, but thought twice.

"If there's a time where we could become party members, I'll tell you"

To that mischievous smile, Maple understood that asking furthermore was useless.

"n~ ... party right now is, impossible I think~ ..."

"I see~, that's too bad"

Kanade smiled joyfully.

Did not look down at all.

Kanade is a different kind of player compared to those that they have met up until now, Kanade is a player that has an ungraspable unique air.

"I want to meet after the event ends too~"

"It's fine though? At that time, let's play Othello again!"

"Un, let's do that"

"The discussion is finished too, so, I'll go explore okay"

"I'll go too, I think that I would be some help?"

Sally and Kanade walked towards the sea.

This time for sure, Maple seriously explored the beach.



The result, there was nothing.

The exploration both to the sea and the beach has ended, but they did not find a significant thing.

If so, it could be said that the two has finished all their tasks in this area.

They parted ways with Kanade, and searched for a new place to explore.

“Do your best~!”

“See you later~!”

They said goodbyes and left.

“What an interesting but mysterious person~”

“Is that so? I’m used to looking at Maple after all~...”

“W-What do you mean by that?!!!”

For the meantime, the two decided to advance as the coastline goes.

It was because it is the best judgment where they would not have any place to get lost into.

# Chapter 43

## Defense Specialized and Coastal Exploration

Sally and Maple are walking on the coastal line.

This is the outer circumference of the island of the event this time.

This island is surrounded by the sea.

And, there are several floating islands in the sky.

“There’s a library on one of those huh~... that place is also a part of the field huh”

Maple whispered while staring at the sky.

Although it could be said that they are floating around the island, the floating island that is at a distance far away, 6 of them could be seen from their place. There might be others hiding behind the mountain area where the monster bird was so they cannot tell the specific number.

In other words, excluding the island where a library is that Kanade said, there are still five floating islands that could be explored.

“Well, it might have already been explored though”

“If it’s dungeon clear just by finishing the [Jigsaw Puzzle that can be completed within four days]... it might end quickly with the two of us!”

“Though we don’t know if there’s a similar dungeon”

“That’s true, but... I just thought that there’s also dungeons like that huh~”

Maple and Sally have only encountered battle-type dungeons, so it seems that Maple wants to go to a dungeon that could be cleared by exploring or solving puzzles.

“It depends on our luck whether we’ll find one, I think”

“That’s true”

While continuing their conversation, the two continued to advance through the coastline.

A normal forest is only continuing on their side and there was no monster that appears.

The only change was the battle against the huge crab-type monsters that comes out from time to time.

Other than that, they are just walking.

And one hour advancing just like that.

The beach ended and the ground started to have a slope.

They gradually took distance from the sea and it changes to a cliff.

“Maple, don’t fall okay?”

“I-It’s alright~!”

The path is not narrow at all and the other side is just a forest.

It is not like they are walking as if they were sticking to walls so as long as nothing absurd happens, they would not fall.

“Well, Maple won’t die even if she falls though”

“But, I can’t climb up”

Anyways, the only need to not fall.

Another two hours of walking.

The forest that continued for a long time on their side disappeared, and ruins made out of old stone bricks with moss appeared to their right.

It was a terrain that really seemed to have something.

The stone bricks that have extended from the ruins passed ahead of the two and continued up to the edge of the cliff.

And there, several stones were standing, surrounding the pedestal in the center.

“There’s something right?”

“Unless it’s already been explored”

The two walked towards the ruins.

They searched each of the tattered buildings but could not find anything.

But even so, they continued to explore thinking of the possibility of a hidden room, and finally, a change happened to the two’s exploration.

“Oh... to”

When Sally was about to come out of the ruins, she suddenly hid her body.

Maple also followed Sally.

There were three players there.

Compared to the players that Maple and Sally have met up until now, they seem to be wearing good equipments.

Although it cannot be compared to the unique series, their equipment was decently good.

Their levels must be decent as well.

They are quite close. Maple and Sally might be found if they make some noise.

“What will we do?”

Maple whispered into Sally’s ear.

Doing such, they would not be able to hear.

“It’s fine to fight them, and it’s fine to not... if we’re going to fight... it’s fine with me alone, and it’s fine to fight together with Maple”

It looks like the choice where Maple would go by herself does not exist.

And there, the players started to say interesting things.

“Hey, that book, do you know what it says?”

“No, it’s too tattered that only parts could be read... I can tell that it has something to do with water, but the place of [Ancient Heart] is...”

“Man, I’ll count on you alright, that book is a special item that drops during death... hurry up and decode it”

“I know already”

Saying that, they walked towards the place that seems to be their base.

It looks like they did not notice Maple and Sally.

They went away.

“Maple. I want to defeat those players... but, they have that book so they’re probably going to focus on running away. That’s why...”

Sally quickly whispered the plan to Maple’s ear.

“...I got it. Is it alright?”

“Fufufu, of course!”

The players were walking away.

If they took any more distance, they would lose sight of them.

Maple and Sally started their plan.

“Yay~!! It’s the fifth medal~!”

A girl’s voice echoed in the ruins.

Hearing that voice, the three players hide into the shadows while turning around.

If it were true, they would want to hunt it.

However, they do not know the strength of their opponent.

Because of that, they were planning on observing the owner of the voice.

It was one girl who came out of the shadows while skipping.

The girl who had a wide smile was equipped with a blue muffler and leggings with a darker color. With her beautiful equipments, there was no doubt that she would gather attention.

However, when it comes to her whole body, it was not like that.

The other equipments are that of a beginner.

It is the clothes when one has not equipped anything.

There is no status bonus at all.

They also knew that her shoes are that of a beginner.

“What do you think?”

“It’s obviously beginner equips. She has some good equipments in parts... but she probably just got them from this event. I can still remember when I was a beginner. That randomness of the equips is...”

“But... we don’t know whether or not she really has a medal”

When the players were continuing to observe her like that, the girl operated her monitor and took out something.

Those were, 5 medals.

“Ufufufu... only half more, only half more~!”

That must be her daily routine.

She sat on a broken stone brick and observed the medals one by one, and after gripping it delightfully, she returned them to her inventory.

“It’s for sure now. Let’s go”

“Yeah, let’s crush her”

When the three jumped out of their covers, the girl was startled and looked towards the three.

The girl stood up and slowly took distance while she holds her dagger.

“W-What is it?”

“Sorry okay? We also want medals”

“.....!!”

When the girl was about to run away, the three surrounded her to block her escape route.

The girl seems to have no ways to take care of the players who were slowly closing in on her, she was looking around with her knees shaking.

“Attack!”

““Yeah!”“

The three swung their own weapons.

There was no way that the dagger that was swung desperately could block that and their weapons sunk into the girl’s body.

The three of them pictured about the medals.

However.

The medals were not there.

The girl disappeared as if she was an illusion.

“““Ha?”““

As if to cover up their surprise, damage effects were raised from one of the players.

Twice, thrice.

He was slashed continuously while stunned.

And that, became a fatal wound.

“Sorry okay? I also want the book”

Saying that, the one who was about to pick up the dropped book was the weak girl that they thought of hunting.

“Ha? D-Don’t mess around!”

To the absurdity of the situation, the player lost his composure and slashed using his skill, but it was avoided as if it was the sword that dodged.

The girl is holding a dagger with each hand.

And using those, she cuts the hand that slashed towards her while dodging.

“GHUAA?!”

When he flinched, the girl picked up the book, placed it in her inventory and ran away.

“W-Wait!”

The man who chased after the girl while scattering damage effects,

In the next instant, he scattered fresh blood-like effects from his abdomen and became a light.

The girl who was running suddenly disappeared and appeared playing with her dagger in the place where the man was killed.

“It isn’t good to get fooled twice you know~”

“Ha? Eh? W-What just...”

The remaining one was whispering something, unable to accept the situation.



And in that situation, the girl.

Or rather, Sally, there was no way that she would get defeated.

“Byebye”

After a while, the remaining one became light and disappeared.

Sally does not know where their starting points are, but she knows that they would not be able to recover the book.

“If you can’t win against me... you can’t defeat Maple after all”

Maple ran towards Sally.

“How was it? I did it well right?”

“Un! Sally who was a bit different from usual was interesting!”

“You don’t need to look at that!”

“Ne~, can you say ‘Yay~!’ while skipping again!”

“I won’t do that! I won’t! Rather than that, let’s check out the loot?”

“...I’ll let it pass for just now~”

“...that’s great.... acting differently than usual is really embarrassing~”

Sally decided that she will not do such thing unless she really needs to.

The two started to check the things that they got from the battle just now.

# Chapter 44

## Defense Specialized and Ruins Exploration

The things that they got from the battle this time, first is the book which is their foremost objective.

And other than that, 3 medals.

It could be said that they were very lucky.

It is because players who have 3 medals would avoid battles with high-level players as much as possible.

They probably ran away if Sally appeared wearing her usual equipment.

The five medals which were more than the three medals that the players who lost have, it succeeded in stealing the three's composure.

They probably could not resist the temptation of having three times the medals at once.

"The hunter, gets hunted... I guess"

After saying that, Sally took out that old book from her inventory.

"Well then, let's read it?"

"Un! Let's do that!"

The two girls sat on the stone bricks and took a peek at the book.

It was in tatters, and they were not able to read each page properly, but when they skimmed the pages, they found a part that they were able to read.

"[Ancient Heart], guided by the spring water, within the faint lights, that shall appear.  
Oh Hero, cast out that evil, bring peace to the sea"

"What does it mean?"

“Spring water has something to do with the [Ancient Heart]... we probably can go to a dungeon if we have that? It’s like there would also be a battle”

“...since it’s saying spring water... a fountain or something?”

The two girls found four fountains as the result of exploring the ruins.

There is a huge fountain in the middle of the ruins, and small fountains a little far from there.

The top of the fountain was made out of a diamond-shaped red crystal and was very beautiful.

Although, it has withered without the sign of any water.

“For the meantime, let’s test the huge fountain in the middle”

“Un, let’s do that”

The two girls reached the huge fountain after a little walk.

And then, Sally seemed to have thought of something and stood on the basin herself.

“[Ocean]!”

Water spread from Sally’s feet.

It fills the basin.

Together with that, the fountain started to shine with a faint blue color.

“Ohh?!”

“How is it?”

However, that light gradually faded away.

The water that filled the basin also disappeared as if it was absorbed by the fountain.

They tried to listen with their ears, but there were no sounds of something activating.

“n~ ... nothing happens?”

“...I guess so. But, I think there’s something in this fountain”

“Un, I also think so. Let’s test the other fountains”

The two girls tested that on the other fountains, but other than releasing a faint light, no change happened.

“Sally, we haven’t read that book till the end right? Let’s try reading it again?”

“...let’s do that. There might be other hints”

The two started to read the book once again after being stuck. They carefully looked at each page, but still, they did not find words that they could read.

And, they finally reached the chapter where they stopped reading.

“The faint light is that light of the fountain, and that was enough for the spring water...”

They were not able to think of anything new although they tried to think about it, and turned the page to leave that aside.

“Oh?!”

“This... a picture?”

The last page.

Although it was in tatters, there was a picture drawn there.

“A pot? ... no, a water jar?”

Around the four fountains, people were drawn while holding a pot-like thing. Some round thing is floating on the top part of the picture. That was dyed with red.

“This is, the [Ancient Heart]?”

Maple said as she pointed at the red circle.

“...it might be so. n~... we need to place water jars around or something? I don’t get it...”

The two girls thought deeply while they groaned, but the information they got from the picture was too vague that they could not connect it to an idea.

“Let’s take a break. We won’t be able to think of anything if we continue like this”

“That is true”

The two girls sat in the center of the ruins and loosened up.

It is easier to relax being in a place with a clear view rather than hiding in a weird place because it is easy to notice the approaching players.

“Including today, there are only 3 days left in the event huh~...”

Sally whispered.

The event has passed its turning point. There is only a little time remaining.

“I think that it was a very, veeery dense four days you know? It might be denser than the playstyle we did up until now!”

“Ahaha, that’s true!”

Defeating the Goblin King, spent a night in the forest where wandering ghosts appear, fought and defeat a monster bird with overwhelming strength in the snowy mountains and receive Syrup and Oboro, and after that, exploration in the bamboo forest.

There was also the fight against their imitations, and they explored the dungeon in the desert while running away from the snails together with Kasumi.

They were able to get a new connection with the encounter with Kanade at sea, and they also gained a medal.

Just like Maple has said, these two girls have spent the event with very dense contents.

“Exploring this ruins... and another dungeon should be enough”

“We’re going to use the whole fifth day at this ruins?”

“Un, let’s move with that in mind. It might take just that long”

The two girls ended their break moderately and started to explore the ruins again.

Unlike the first time, they were planning on spending time and find underground or hidden rooms.

The reason is the old picture from earlier.

The two girls guessed that the water jugs that was drawn in the picture might be somewhere in the ruins.

The water jugs are going to be needed to reproduce the situation in the picture.

They cannot tell whether that picture is absolutely right, but that is the only clue that the two girls have right now.

They continued to explore with the two of them or split from time to time, but in the end, the sun was about to set without them being able to find anything.

“Let’s stay under some roof”

“Let’s do that”

The two girls took their meal while disappointed that they were not able to get results like they expected.

“There was really nothing~”

“...there might be a different change when the night comes, so... you want to take turns and explore?”

“Un, okay!”

The reason why the two of them are not exploring at the same time, with one of them resting, is because the exploration for tomorrow still remains.

They learned very well during the escape from the snails that they must move with leeway or else they would make mistakes.

After they had talked for a while after eating dinner, Sally went out to explore first.

“Be careful~!”

“I’m going”

Maple called Syrup and played. There was nothing else to do.

However, resting is a proper job for certain times.

Since the two of them decided it, she cannot break their promise and go explore by herself.

After a while, Sally returned.

And from how she seemed, she did not have any result. Her expression did not look well.

And after that, Maple departed after a while.

They repeated that many times and Maple’s turn came again.

“I’ll go now okay”

“Un, I hope you find something...”

Maple explored inside the ruins.

The first place she went to is the huge fountain.

She went to the huge fountain first, every time.

And after that, she would check the smaller fountains while walking around.

Maple looked up to the sky.

“What a beautiful moon...”

The full moon in the sky showered the ground with a faint smile.

She would not be able to feel the moon shine so bright like this because the world in reality is full of the light of electricity.

Maple walked towards the passage connecting to the huge fountain.

“n?”

Maple stopped.

The huge fountain has the change that they have been waiting for.

The fountain, it faintly shines without the two girls doing anything.



# Chapter 45

## Defense Specialized and Ancient Heart

Maple immediately called Sally using the message function.

Sally rushed up to the huge fountain without a minute passing.

“Oh~ ... it’s shining~”

“Un, I thought that there’s something”

Sally entered the basin and activated [Ocean].

“The light got stronger, but... it looks like there’s no use”

All of the [Ocean] got sucked in.

Sally drops her shoulder because there was no advancement again, but Maple seemed to have thought of something and started talking.

“What about... the same time? Look! There are four fountains drawn in the picture too!”

“That’s true... but, it would be impossible to catch up making water. It’s impossible even if [Super Acceleration] was used”

“Since nothing’s gonna change like this... would you like to try?”

“Eh? What?”

“It’s not only Sally who can make [Liquids]”

Maple said and told Sally about the plan she thought of.

“Eh!... I, see. Un... that’s right. Let’s just try”

Sally activated [Ocean] in the basin once again.

But a moment before that, Maple shouted.

“[Hydra]!”

That is right, poison is also liquid.

And this Poison Dragon has three heads.

Each of them shot towards the small fountains that the basin itself was sunk.

On top of not knowing whether it should be at the same time, the two girls do not know whether it must absolutely be water as well.

However, even so, they still had to test it.

The reason for that has something to do with the time that this event occurs.

The time is almost 12 midnight.

Since they do not know when the lights shining would end, the next one will be the sixth day's night.

They could not afford to wait that long.

Maple's plan was full of holes, but it would seem that God was their ally this time.

“Uwwa?!”

“So bright...!!”

A flashing light reached out from the three fountains to the huge fountain.

The huge fountain's light became stronger and stronger, and its red crystal flew up to the sky.

That crystal gathered moonlight, and when its light increased, it showered a red light and broke.

“n...?”

“W-What happens?”

The two girls carefully looked around but suddenly, a huge explosive sound echoed behind them.

The two turned around while getting surprised at the sound that echoed throughout the silent ruins.

“W-What is it?!”

“There...!”

The former main street that extended from the square with the huge fountain.

That continued to the cliff.

In there, there are a shrine and stone pierced to it.

However, what could be seen from far away was a white, shining something.

The sound from earlier included the sound that the shrine and stone getting destroyed.

The two girls approached to check that white shine, and found a magic circle that they saw for many times in this event.

The two girls checked the place where the stone was pierced before, carefully not to step on the magic circle, but noticed something.

“Uwa...”

“T-This is...”

It is true that the sound of the stone getting destroyed was included in the explosive sound from before.

However, it was only included.

The explosive sound’s identity was.

It was the sound when an abysmal hole that tore the sea to connect to the dark deep

sea had opened.

“There’s something down there, right...”

“Well, that should be the case. Maple, you want to jump down?”

“N-No way! That’s scary!”

It is currently midnight.

The courage to jump into the night sea that was eerie from the start and became a more frightening place was something that Maple did not have although she might withstand the damage.

“If so... we should step inside the magic circle... I think that it’s connected down under that hole too”

“It’s connected to an unexplored somewhere right?”

“Un”

The two girls counted one to two and entered the magic circle at the same time.

Just like up until now, the two girls’ appearance became light particles and disappeared.

“This place is?”

“Sally? It’s too dark I can’t see...”

“Wait a bit okay?”

Sally took out a torch from her inventory and lit up their surroundings.

“Inside the sea... I think?”

“...ah!! Look up!”

Sally followed Maple’s voice and looked up. There is a small starry sky that could be seen there.

“There’s no doubt that we’re inside that hole”

“The path continues”

A beautifully made semi-circular passage continues.

The walls are all sea water.

Some kind of power had torn the sea and made a path.

“Let’s hurry up and pass through? It’s the end if it returns to normal after all”

“Un! That’s true”

They advanced through the undersea tunnel in the darkness with a fast pace.

It might have been a beautiful scenery in the morning, but there was nothing that could be done because the event was during the night.

The two seemed to get worried being in the darkness with only a torch as their light, they instinctively held each other’s hand.

“Ah!! There’s a light!”

“I-It’s true!”

The two accelerated their steps towards the light. The light gradually became bigger, and it had exceeded the two girls’ height when they reached it.

The source of the light was the sea.

It was a bright morning sea, as if the time had advanced for only that place.

The fishes merrily swam and bubbling sounds could be heard.

The sea that spread out like it repelled the deep dark sea changed the two girls’ mood after being worried within the darkness.

And, stairs made of corals were extending from there as if to penetrate through that sea.

And up ahead, there is a huge door decorated with corals. There was no doubt that it

is the boss room that they have seen many times.

“[Cast out that evil] huh... are your battle preparations finished?”

“Un! I’m ready anytime!”

Maple made a stance with her large shield and appealed that she is all ready.

Sally took a deep breath and opened the door.

First, she checked what is inside the room with a glance.

Combat will start the instant they entered the room, so they won’t be able to leave if it does start.

Being able to check the terrain inside first might enable them to fight in an advantage. The room’s condition is a very important thing especially to Sally who is focused on evading.

“Maple, it’s a half circular dome inside, and it’s bright. I mean, it’s similar to the place we are right now”

“Hou, hou”

“Also... it’s very wide. It has about... 50-meter diameter. Even the ceiling is high”

“If so... maybe the boss is big?”

It is normal to think that the boss is big because the room is big.

“The ground is a dry stone floor for now... and it doesn’t seem that there are traps”

“Okay~... well then, let’s go”

“Let’s enter!”

“Un!”

The two girls rushed inside the room.

Maple did not raise her large shield so that she would not waste any [Akujiki].

Just like Sally said, there were no traps, and there were no scattered attacks that would

consume [Akujiki] as well.

“.....! It’s coming!”

“Un!”

\*Bashan\*, a huge sound was made and several tentacles extended from the ceiling.

The two girls saw those tentacles like that of a squid.

No, it was really like that.

A giant squid swimming in the ceiling reached out only its tentacles and attacked.

“That dungeon’s?!”

“But, we’re not under water you know?!”

The two girls were surprised but the giant squid attacked.

The tentacles longer than the two girls’ height was swung towards Maple.

“It doesn’t... work!”

The large shield devoured the squid’s tentacle, but the squid’s HP Bar that could be seen from afar did not decrease.

It did not mean that it has a lot of stamina.

It completely did not work.

“We might need to attack the main body!”

“Eh?!!”

“This is... difficult...”

Sally muttered while taking a glance at the squid swimming on top of them.

The squid did not mind them, and continued to attack from a safe area.

# Chapter 46

## Defense Specialized and Squid Subjugation 1

Thirty minutes have passed since the battle started.

“Well... what should we do...”

“Sally~! Have you thought of something~?”

“n~... not yet~”

Sally thought while standing still.

The reason she can do that is because the attacks have concentrated on Maple who attacked the tentacles first.

Maple is being tickled by the giant squid's tentacle attacks.

“As usual... what an absurd defense...”

The attacks that would push normal players to either death or heavy injuries was the same as a rabbit's tackle for Maple.

Even now, Maple is being hit by the tentacle attacks and was being thrown around like a ball.

“Maple~! I'll go and swim to take a look at the squid nearby~!”

“Un, be careful~!”



巨大イカにお手玉されたままのメイプルが放った猛毒が、  
ボス部屋を侵食していく。

「うわ……」

また凄いことしてるよ……」

「綺麗な海をー、毒の海にー！」





She tried things like Wind Magic, but it was blocked by a thick layer of water and did not reach the squid's main body.

There was also the idea of killing it with poison by Maple shooting [Hydra(Poison Dragon)] into the water, but if that fails, Sally would not be able to enter the water as well, so they left that as the last resort if they cannot do anything anymore.

Sally quickly entered the water wall. She got on her guard because it might be the same water as her [Ocean] but it was normal water.

Sally swam towards the squid.

Of course, it was not like all of the tentacles was attacking Maple.

There were tentacles remaining that would attack those who approach.

Of course, it attacked Sally.

"Ohh~... as expected of Sally~..."

What Maple who was being thrown around by the tentacles saw when she looked up was Sally's appearance of approaching the squid's main body while evading the tentacles as if it was easy.

"Oh! It's HP Bar decreased!"

It was just that time when Sally's dagger slashes the giant squid's body while releasing effects.

Maple was being attacked by the tentacles while that happened, but Maple also started to get leeway from being used to it.

"n~? It's HP is lower than I thought..."

After Sally released five consecutive skill attacks, its HP Bar has already decreased by 10%.

“n?!!”

Maple fell to the ground because the tentacle attacks suddenly stopped.

The tentacles' attack target changed to Sally from Maple because she inflicted damage on the main body.

Sally seemed to have noticed that as well and started to quickly swim back.

Even if Sally is great at evading, there are super wide ranged attacks that cannot be dodged.

There would be nothing left of her if all of the wide tentacles attacked her at once.

“Puhha...!”

“[Cover Move]! [Cover]!”

Maple did not use [Akushoku] here. She received the tentacle attacks that aimed towards Sally and her armor pounded.

“[Hydra]!”

The eight tentacles that were about to attack them were devoured by the poison dragon.

There was no need to make a plan for the poison dragon to hit the giant squid that lacks speed compared to the monster bird.

It did not have the speed to dodge it.

“Well, it would regenerate though”

There was no effect on its HP Bar, and its tentacles would regenerate no matter it was destroyed.

However, it was not like that action was completely useless.

By destroying all of those eight tentacles, its target changed to Maple.

She was thrown around like a ball again.

“Sally, I’ll leave it to you!”

“Thanks! I’ll count on you!”

Sally entered the waters again.

Sally attacks and Maple would receive the enemy’s attacks.

Each time the attack target shifts to Sally, she would return to Maple and make it so that the attack target would return to Maple.

They decided to repeat that, at least until the pattern changes.

It looks very simple, but it is impossible to endure the eight tentacles’ concentrated attacks if it was not Maple.

If it is not someone like Sally who have [Diving] and [Swimming], it would be difficult to approach the squid, and it would be hard to deal damage.

It is because the two girl’s abilities were good against the giant squid that they could be at an advantage.

However, they were unable to continue that until the end.

When Sally damaged it until there was 70% left, its movement pattern changed.

Magic circles appeared around the squid and fishes came out of there one next to the other.

They were monsters without a doubt.

The fishes approached the directions that each of the two girls was in.

The tentacles that attacked Maple changed its target again and returned to the waters.

“...they’re swimming in air”

The place where Maple was in was not underwater, but the fishes plunged out of the water without care, and swam in the air with blue effects.

It was a fantastic scene, but the fishes are monsters. There was no time to be moved.

The fishes tackled from each direction.

“n~... [Paralyze Shaft]!”

\*Kin\*, a clear sound echoed and the fishes lost their abilities to move their bodies and fell to the ground.

The giant squid and the fishes in the water were outside of range so they were not paralyzed.

“As I’ve thought, this is convenient!”

“Haa~...! I finally got away”

\*BashaBashaBasha\*, Sally went out of the water while making sounds.

Of course, the remaining fishes and tentacles followed after Sally.

But even so, the reason why Sally could declare that she had got away is because Maple is there.

Maple is near, that means it is an absolute safe area.

“Maple!”

“Okay~!”

Maple drew out Shingetsu that she just sheathed earlier.

A purple magic circle came out of its blade.

It is Maple’s strongest attack that she had activated many times, as well as her favorite.

“[Hydra]!”

That melted all of the fishes that went towards them, devoured even the tentacles that followed, and.

It plunged into the water.

““Ah!””

The poison dragon that jumped into the water gradually melted its body into the water.

It should be not their imagination that the water became slightly purple colored.

It is unknown what would happen if Sally entered there.

“H-H-H-Hey, what will we do?!”

“W-W-W-What will we do?”

“T-That’s right! The squid! The squid’s HP Bar!”

They stared intently, but its HP Bar did not seem to decrease.

The melted tentacles started to get revived as well.

The paralyzed fishes also started to float up with blue effects.

New fishes were added as well.

“F-For the meantime, run around, Sally!”

“I’ll defeat the fishes while I’m at it too!”

“I’m really sorry!”

The overflowing fishes.

The eight tentacles that attacked.

It looks like the fishes did not only have tackles as attacks, they started to scatter water with the same color of the blue effects.

“Maple! It might have the same effects of my [Ocean]!”

“I-I already got wet!... my movements gets slow... or not?”

“I-I see, you have [AGI 0] so there’s nothing left to decrease huh! No, if so, there’s also the possibility that it’s just water... I-I don’t know anymore!”

Because of Maple's simple miss, their stable cycle collapsed without a trace, and there were poison liquid and unknown fluids on the ground. The fishes flying around and the tentacles that swayed around.

Maple who was being thrown around.

Within that situation, the two girls panicked screaming 'wa~, wa~!' while they thought of their next plan.

# Chapter 47

## Defense Specialized and Squid Subjugation 2

“I know already, it’s that! If it comes to this, let’s attack the water with more poison!”

“Then... I’ll, [Akushoku] the tentacles~!”

“Do it!”

Maple’s [Akushoku] devoured the tentacles.

And every time, red crystals appeared.

This is her last MP charge.

And for Sally, she had already regained her composure, and started to think of the fishes that appeared infinitely as just experience points after she got used to them.

They only give small experience points, but they only have a small HP so it was easy for Sally to hunt them.

On top of that, it connects to not letting the fishes get on Maple’s way.

“I should leave it to Maple and do what I can”

Sally ran around as usual and fought against the fishes with hit and away.

Sally left all of it to Maple.

And that Maple.

“Well~... I hope it goes well~...”

Maple approached the wall of water.

The tentacles have just been erased earlier, so there is an absolute time of peace for a moment.



The fishes did not care and continued to attack Maple.

“Oh~ ... they look cute when closer!”

Maple reached out her hand towards the fish and that fish tackled towards that hand repeatedly.

Because of Maple's smile, the scene of her being attacked by a monster changed to a scene of her playing with a fish.

“It's better if you get away you know~?”

Maple stabbed Shingetsu towards the wall of water.

“[Hydra]!”

The poison dragon that was not aimed at anything jumped into the water.

Of course, it melted in the water and was unable to deal direct damage to the squid.

“The beautiful sea~, to a poisonous sea~!”

The area of the sea is quite vast and she still needs to shoot a lot of them.

However, the water is gradually turning purple. The color is darker than before.

“I should get away from the wall so that it can't shoot me tentacles”

Even the water that the fishes scattered, it surpassed the poison that Maple herself created and return to the middle.

She needs a little more time to use [Hydra].

And before that, the tentacles would regenerate as well.

Sally has not attacked the squid at all since earlier, so of course, all of it would go towards Maple.

“Whatever... do what you want!”

Maple laid down on the ground.

She thought that it is useless to resist since she is not able to run away and would be played like a ball again.

“Oh?!”

After she had laid down, the tentacles slapped her from above.

Unlike when she was standing, she was not being bounced around.

“This is good! So good!”

“Uwwa... she’s doing something again...”

Sally is also pulling the fishes behind her to a marathon, so it was something similar.

“[Hydra]!”

After a while, Maple stood up and shot into the water. And, she laid down once again.

She found out that she would not be thrown around by the tentacles while lying down, so she laid down on a place where she only needs to reach out Shingetsu to the water wall.

And just like that, Maple planned on waiting until the next time.

But a certain change happened.

That was the same with Sally

““n?!””

They saw the squid’s HP decreasing for a bit.

It was a small change might have been a misjudgment, but they were able to see the

instant when the HP Bar decreased.

“It decreased a little!”

“Un, it looks like so. But...”

The time until it decreased again after it decreased once was very long.

It was five minutes. On top of that, its HP only decreased by 1mm.

Waiting for it to lose all of its HP like this would be very difficult.

It means, the poison is still too weak.

However, just knowing that it works is a good harvest.

“Do your best!”

“Un! I’ll do my best!”

After that, the reduction of its HP bar accelerated after a few [Hydra] s were shot.

They succeeded in removing 10% of its HP after an hour has passed.

The squid has still 60% remaining on its HP Bar.

If this goes on, it will take them 6 hours.

“[Poison Lance]!”

Maple has no bullets left for [Hydra], so she shot a different skill thinking it might add to it even a little.

“Running for six hours is a little...”

“What should we do...”

They thought and thought of it, but there were no means that could change the current situation instantly.

And just like that, one hour has passed again. The squid's HP decreased to 50%.

"Uwwa?!"

Maple was laying down beside the wall of water, so she understood instantly.

She found out that the area of the water has spread.

The walls and ceiling are approaching.

And when it stopped expanding, there are only half remaining of the space where the two are currently in.

Additionally, the squid started to spit out squid ink.

Because of that, they cannot see the squid's appearance.

It will have been a very troublesome attack if they have tried to clear it straightforwardly.

After all, it was already difficult to move in the water, and the vision would be stolen on top of that.

However, it had nothing to do to the two who were doing something far away from a straightforward way.

"Maple! How many [Akushoku] do you still have?"

"Only one!"

"...reserve it!"

"Got it!"

Maple did not understand what Sally is planning, but she decided to reserve it, and continued to receive the attacks.

Because the water has approached, the speed that the fishes entered accelerated.

It means that it would be more difficult for Sally to run away.

"[Provoke]!"

It was a good plan for Maple to receive them because it was difficult for Sally to run away.

She would lose everything if she dies just for experience points.

“Thanks!”

“It’s nothing much!”

It seems that the squid ink was not being released continuously, and just like Maple’s poison, it spread and started to dilute.

It looks like there was no second squid ink attack, it only returned to swimming elegantly.

“There huh... I think it barely reaches...? Yosh! Maple!”

Sally called Maple.

Of course, Maple stood up and approached her.

“What will we do?!”

“Follow me! [Leap]!”

Although she leaped towards the squid that became nearer, she lacked 15 meters.

“[Cover Move]!”

Maple followed her just as she was told.

“Let’s go! [Shoulder Throw]!”

Sally grabbed Maple and threw her towards the water’s surface.

“Ueeeeee?!!”

“[Impact Fist]!”

A bullet of air was released from Sally’s fist and broke the water surface while pushing Maple.

Maple who was thrown straight towards the squid swung her shield.

Its HP Bar decreased suddenly.

“This is Maple Cannon!”

“H-Hey, what about my landing?!”

“...I didn’t think of it”

It was just a little ahead in the future when

# Chapter 48

## Defense Specialized and Squid Subjugation 3

“My attack was *that*, so...”

Sally muttered while landing down.

Maple fell to her side.

She did not receive any damage although she fell 25 meters high.

What an amazing vitality.

On the other hand, the squid's HP and defense are relatively lower.

That is proven because even Sally's attacks are able to wither it down.

It was not strange at all for that giant squid to lose 20% of its HP after receiving an attack from Maple.

“With this, we shortened it to three hours”

“But there's still 3 hours~...”

Maple does not have [Akushoku] anymore. They cannot do the same thing again.

“Ah, it spat out squid ink again”

“The sea, it was beautiful, but now...”

There was nothing that remained from the beautiful blue sea that is now full of squid ink and poison.

“Well then, I'll run again okay?”

“Un. [Provoke]!”

Maple pulled the fishes.

It is possible to dissipate the water that was scattered by the fishes using flame-type attacks, so Sally ran around while making the least needed path she needs.

“It’s amazing you can run that much~...”

It is possible to lessen the fatigue in-game by getting used to VR games.

One needs to get used to playing for long periods of time to not get tired running around.

That is something that a skill cannot cover.

And after two hours of waiting.

There is only 10% left of the squid’s HP.

“A-re? The fishes...”

The fishes lost the blue effect that they were clad within and withered in an instant after losing their moisture.

The effect that disappeared floated up and got absorbed by the squid’s body.

“Something’s coming!”

“I got it!”

Maple raises her large shield.

Since there are no stacks left of the [Akushoku], she is finally able to use it as a proper shield.

The giant squid shook once, and jumped out of the water while being enveloped by the same blue effects that the fishes had.

That strong blue light firmly supports its giant body.

“It’s coming!”



“[Cover Move]! [Cover]!”

It was the same time that Maple shouted and the squid charged.

Sally was able to dodge while Maple who used [Cover] to be sure got thrown back after receiving the attack.

The squid that jumped out of the water entered the other side of the wall of water.

Maple's HP Bar was decreased by 40%.

The damage she receives was doubled because of [Cover Move] /

This is only the second time Sally saw an opponent that was able to get through Maple's armored defense.

“It powered up...?!”

Sally used [Heal] on Maple and followed the giant squid with her eyes.

It was also a chance to attack because it would get near them.

“I'll dodge... and slash!”

Sally pumped herself up, but the squid's target was Maple.

“[Super Acceleration]!”

Sally targeted the squid that targeted Maple.

She swung her dagger while she received speed reduction.

“[Triple Slash]!”

Sally passed through under while releasing six consecutive attacks.

“[Poison Lance]”

Maple’s poisonous lance stabs into the squid’s head.

Maple also received damage from its charge, but the squid also received huge damages.

It jumped into the water again.

“We’ll defeat it in the next one!”

“Just a little bit more! Let’s do our best!”

The two followed the squid’s movements while getting ready for its charge.

It is to make something out of the valuable chance.

And while that happened, the squid was about to jump out.

“It’s coming!”

“Un!”

When the two girls raised their weapons.

The squid’s HP Bar which was infested with poison finally disappeared.

““eh?””

The squid’s body became light and dissipated.

The soiled water was purified.

Its shine sparkled like sun rays that reached the waters and gradually disappeared.

“.....for real?”

“.....I get that feeling”

The two won in an unconvincing manner.

However, a win is a win.

A deep blue magic circle in front of them.

“You want to get it?”

“What about the reward?”

“n~... there might be something, so, I’ll go search the waters okay?”

“Please do!”

Sally entered the waters.

It is possible to explore thoroughly since the poison disappeared.

“I would’ve sent Syrup too if she was a sea turtle~”

Maple watched Sally swim around, but Sally returned after a while.

“There was one squid tentacle”

“What about a medal?”

“U~n... I think that there was none. I searched properly around the corals too... most of all, I don’t think that the rewards would be placed in a place that is hard to tell”

“That’s true...”

The two girls stepped into the magic circle although disappointed that there were no medals.

The two of them who thought that they would return to the top of the cliff did not expect that they would be teleported underwater.

“I-I can’t breathe! W-What should we do?!”

“n, n? Maple! You can breathe!”

“Eh?! Ah, a-re? It’s true...”

She can also say her words properly.

It looks like there was no possibility of drowning although there was the feeling of water.

“What a mysterious place...”

“Is this the [peaceful sea]?”

Just like Sally has said, the place where the two girls are was a silent sea.

It was a blue sea that if the two of them did not say anything, they could hear the bubbles in intervals.

It seems like they are in the bottom of the sea, as well as near the water surface.

In that space where calming blue has ruled, where one might fall asleep anytime, there was a blue treasure box that seemed to be enveloped by corals.

“I’ll open it okay?”

There was two medals and two scrolls inside.

Maple kept the medal.

Sally took the scroll and looked at its information.

“What’s the skill name?”

“[Ancient Sea], it can be learned if you have water-type skills... it looks like you can summon the fishes enveloped by blue light from earlier”

What Sally meant by the fishes earlier were the fishes that they saw schools of when they fought against the squid.

Sally read it, and found out that there was really [Decrease 10 AGI] ability included

with those water.

It is a skill that Maple has no use of, but Sally would be able to increase the range of strategies she could take with it.

“Ah~... is [Hydra] no good?”

“Well, I think that that’s not water-type”

“I guessed so”

Although they tried to be sure, Maple was unable to learn it.

Maple decided to leave it aside for now and put the scroll into her inventory.

The two girls laid around after closing the treasure box.

They are very tired after the long fight and the ruins exploration on the fifth day.

The fifth day started with meeting Kanade.

The two girls really felt that today was a day full of happenings.

“It might be okay taking it slow for one day”

“Ahaha... that’s true”

The two girls decided to sleep while thinking that it might be possible to take some leisure time if they have enough medals.

It was a good place to sleep as well.

“Let’s rest... for a bit”

“I agree...”

The peaceful sea that enveloped the two girls was the most comfortable bed that they had up until now.

# Chapter 49

## Defense Specialized and The Sixth Day of the Event

The two girls stood up after a while.

They stepped into the magic circle and teleported to the top of the cliff.

They saw the ruins when they turned around.

The deep hole that seemed to pierce through the sea already disappeared.

“With this, the capture’s finished right?”

“Probably... we don’t have enough medals though”

“Ah~, I see... two more”

The two girls have slept for quite long, and it is currently 9 am of the sixth day.

“Dungeons that have not yet been captured... it would be either it has very high difficulty... or haven’t found yet”

“I see... then, we should start walking right away”

Maple was about to walk forward.

However.

“Un. About that? Maple doesn’t have [skills for today] right?”

“Eh?!... ah! That’s right!”

They have fought the squid after midnight.

Both [Akushoku] and [Hydra] cannot be used anymore on the sixth day.

One of Maple’s weaknesses is that she has a lot of cooldowns.

Fights soon after the day have passed would greatly limit Maple’s movement in that day.

“Well, I’ll do something about players too, so... we should just think about it when we find a dungeon”

The battle against the squid might have resulted in a different way without Maple fighting with all of her strength.

It was something done so there was nothing that they could do.

“For the mean time, let’s trace the coastline. It still continues after all”

The two girls left the ruins and advanced.

“After we get two medals, would you like to raise Oboro and Syrup?”

“Oh, that sounds good!”

Maple and Sally had fought only strong enemies, so they were unable to raise their two pets.

Because of that, their level is still low.

“Dungeons... we can’t enter it again after it’s captured once right?”

“Kanade was saying something like that”

The two girls believe that there was no more sea dungeon.

It has not changed that the sea is to the left, and the forest only continues to the right.

“This, maybe we should start seriously targeting other players”

“Mu~... it can’t be helped huh”

Maple was not very assertive towards PK, but she decided to reason it out, that it cannot be helped in a hunt or be hunted environment.

The two girls have met many players who tried to defeat them.

Because of that, she guessed that it was a common way of thinking.

“If so... let’s enter the forest. Maple? Can you see that mountain?”

“n~? I can see it”

“Let’s go there. I think that players would gather in a place that stands out like that”

What Sally pointed at was a different mountain from the mountain terrain that they climbed on the second day.

It looked like there might be a dungeon there, but it also looks like it would be easily captured since it is a terrain that stands out.

“Well then... let’s go”

The two girls walked towards the mountain.

After three hours since the girls decided their objective.

They were inside a cave that can be found half way of the mountain.

Although they were able to see several players from far away, they ran away from the girls at maximum speed.

‘If I would need to leave Maple whose fighting power had decreased to the lowest extreme, then...’, Sally thought and gave up chasing those players.

“And so... can Maple stay here and hide?”

“Understood! Sorry?”

“It’s okay, it’s okay! You did great during the squid battle too”

Sally operated the blue panel and hands the ring that she equipped to Maple.

It was the ring that connects her with Oboro.

“Your HP would go down but... I’ll leave Oboro as your bodyguard too okay?”



Maple removed her Toughness Ring and called out Syrup and Oboro after wearing the ring.

“Well then... I’ll go now!”

“Do your best!”

Sally left the cave.

Both Syrup and Oboro has abilities equal to normal players.

Abilities that should be enough for a certain level of guarding.

If Maple gets defeated, the medal that they gathered up to now will disappear.

“The responsibility is huge... I know!”

Although there was no boss room, was this a dungeon before? The cave was very wide.

It was a cave that was similar to an ant’s nest.

Maple is in the deepest part of that cave.

“[Venom Capsule]!”

She unsummoned Oboro and Syrup to prevent self-destruction and spread the poisonous capsule.

It was an ability that Maple can use even in a normal state.

“Until Sally returns... I must live”

Maple’s poison fills the narrow path of the cave at a regular interval.

The dungeon was started to get covered by a poisonous swamp gimmick.

That scene was as if Maple turned to the new boss of this dungeon.

“Don’t come~! Don’t come anybody~!”

Maple expands the capsule.

While Maple was releasing poison, Sally was outside the cave.

“If it’s only me... there should be lots of players that would think they could defeat me”

Many players know of Maple’s appearance.

The players who ran away saw Maple’s unique equipments and ran away.

They all understood Maple’s danger.

However, it is different for Sally.

Sally was completely unknown.

Sally has the same level of abnormal ability as Maple, and more aggressive than Maple.

There was almost no one who knows that.

And, right now, Sally does not have anything to lose.

Maple is keeping all of the medals.

“It looks like... I can go on a rampage after a long time?”

For Sally, fighting with Maple is fun, but there is a different charm with fighting alone.

Sally runs down the mountain.

The time is still in the afternoon and visibility is also good.

“Oh! There they are”

Sally found a two female pair walking in the forest. They were being vigilant of the

surroundings and noticed Sally's approach.

"Let's go!"

"Okay~!"

They were equipped with a one-handed sword and a spear.

The one-handed sword was also equipped with a shield.

"[Gale Thrust]!"

The player equipped with a one-handed sword had entered her next movement while calculating Sally's reaction towards the spear that thrust forward.

She seemed to be dagger-equipped so hitting her after she lost her balance should be good.

She probably planned it that way.

If it were a normal player, they would have pulled back or dodged to the sides.

The one-handed sword woman expected that her opponent this time would fall back and zeroed the distance dashing.

By doing that, she would also be able to react if the opponent dodges to the side.

That is, if Sally was normal.

"Eh?!"

Sally's evasion is different.

She twisted her body and advanced while barely avoiding the spear. Her dagger draws near to the spearwoman that was completely caught off guard.

"[Double Slash]!"

Red effects scattered but the woman somehow survives.

She instinctively pulled back her spear then swung it horizontally.

“No way?!”

Sally dodged that spear by bending backwards. The woman’s thought process stopped after seeing that inhuman reaction speed.

“Okay, it’s the end”

Sally’s dagger zeroed that woman’s HP Bar this time for sure.

“[Power Blade]!”

A quick vertical cut approaches from behind Sally.

‘I got her.’

The woman thought.

“.....!!”

It was as if she had eyes on her back.

Sally turns her body sideways.

Just because of that, the sword that aimed towards Sally passed through as if it was the one that dodged Sally.

“[Slash]!”

Sally crosses with the woman while cutting her flank.

The woman felt it was very eerie.

She would get more disadvantaged the more she attacked.

“Ku...!”

“[Wind Cutter]!”

Sally’s magic attack caught the woman who was trying to think of ways of how to land an attack on Sally off guard.

She was just that panicking against an abnormal opponent.

“Ku!!”

The woman dodged to the side.

And then, the woman noticed while she loses her balance that it was as if her plan earlier was happening only to her.

“Goodbye”



It is very difficult for a normal player to win a head-on battle against a player who defies common sense.

This time, a miracle did not happen.

“Well then, there’s... no medal huh”

Sally started to walk, searching for her next prey.

Coincidentally, there were many players around here on the sixth day.

And those players started rumors after the event ended.

They said, [she disappears like a phantom].

They said, [the sword dodges on its own].

They said, [it’s a ghost]

The massacre that will be called [the nightmare in the sixth-day] later on has just started.

# Chapter 50

## Defense Specialized and Event and Mid-Boss

“Well... I should go back...”

Sally muttered within the fluttering red effects and player dying effects.

If the attacking effects in this game were gushing out blood, her beautiful blue equipments were probably dyed with red.

The massacre act that was doubted as a randomly appearing cleaner-type boss after the event has ended.

It is because Sally has found two medals.

“As I’ve thought; there are only a few people who have them... I guess we were just lucky”

Evening is nearing.

It has been five hours of moving and fighting.

From far away, the mountain where Maple is could be seen, illuminated by the setting sun.

That is probably already 10 kilometers away.

Sally has defeated more than a hundred players.

But even so, she only obtained two medals.

Just like Sally has said, the two girls were lucky.

They have the strength to clear the dungeons that have yet to be found, and that was what separated them from other players.

“I should take it back properly”



Sally started to run.

The players that she met along the way turned into light and dissipated, but that was something inevitable.

“Yosh! I’m here!”

Sally immediately entered the cave.

She remembers the way, so she hurried to where Maple is, but stopped halfway.

“Uwwa...”

A wall of poison was made in the passage that connects to where Maple is.

Even if it were destroyed, those who destroyed it wouldn’t be able to advance, since the floor and wall would only be full of poison.

“Maple huh... I should send her a message...”

After a while since she sent a message to Maple, Maple passed through the wall of poison.

“I got the medals”

“Ohh! Amazing!”

Sally passed the medals to Maple.

With this, the two of them has 20 medals.

They only need to protect them.

“What would you like to do? I think it’s good to raise our two pets too”

“Ah! I know! I wanted to say something about that!”

“What?”

“Follow me!”

“No... that’s impossible though...”

Passing through a passage full of poison was something impossible for Sally.

“n~ ... then, ride my shield?”

Maple deactivated the Poison Capsule making the wall of poison disappear, then placed her large shield on the ground.

“I’ll get on, but what will you do?”

Sally got on the large shield. It was just like riding a sled.

“I’ll do my best to push”

“Eh?”

“I’ll do my best to push”

“Isn’t that too hard?”

“I can do it!”

Maple did her best to push.

She stopped after the large shield moved for about 50cm.

“...I can’t”

“Un, I thought so. And then? What did you want to say again? I want to hear that first”

“Ahh, e~to... there’s a room in another dead end different to where I was earlier, and a 20cm sized ant monster came out from there, but they’re weak, so I thought they’re just enough for Syrup and Oboro!”

The two girls have not explored the cave properly, so they did not notice at first.

Maple had been bored, so she was able to find it when she went for a walk after she finished applying poison.

“Is it continuous?”

Sally asked.

She thought that it might be a good place to level up their pets if monsters would spawn endlessly.

“There’s 3 monsters appearing every 10 minutes!”

“If so... I’m sorry, but can Maple do it herself? I don’t feel I can get there...”

“I got it! I’ll do my best okay!”

Sally got off the large shield and Maple re-equipped it and went deeper into the cave.

“U~n, I don’t have anything to do”

For the meantime, Sally decided to go back.

It was not like the whole cave was covered with poison, but at least a third of it was.

After going towards the entrance for a bit, Sally sat down when she reached a hall.

It is a square room with 20 meters on each side, and the walls are also decorated.

Sally thought that it might be originally a mid-boss room.

“I’ll protect Maple”

This is not a dungeon where one can use a magic circle to teleport.

Since the dungeon was already cleared, there was fewer monsters spawning.

Just like Maple has said, there are only a few places where there are still monsters.

Although, Sally only knew about a few places.

If so, what would Sally protect Maple from?

That is, she would protect her from players.

Right now, there are only a few dungeons remaining. If players found a dungeon-looking place, there is no doubt that they would enter to look for medals.

“It’ll be the end if there’s someone who has [Poison Nullification] after all”

Right now, Maple cannot defeat players who have [Poison Nullification].

Since Sally does not have anything else to do, she thought of protecting Maple to be sure.

“This place is also... a dungeon-like place too...”

There is Maple as the boss, Sally as the mid-boss, and there is a whopping reward of 20 medals.

There are almost no monsters as well.

It is a very alluring dungeon.

“I need to protect this place until the sixth day ends...”

If they reached the 7th day, the cooldowns that weaken Maple would disappear.

As long as Sally endure up to that, Maple would revive.

“Thinking of that... it’s like Maple is a Demon God waiting for revival or something...”

Sally thought that since there are many players around this area, the exploration of the other side of the mountainous region must have mostly ended.

“I wonder if they’d come here if they finish exploring over there?”

Sally waited for a while, and she heard someone talking from the passage ahead.

“There’s something!”

It was a four-man group holding their weapons that entered the hall.

Sally quickly checked their weapons.

Spear, Large Shield, Staff, Large Sword.

They are probably a regular party, their party balance is quite good.

“Why have you come here?”

“You’re... a player... right?”

They couldn’t be blamed to have doubts, seeing a well-equipped girl staying in a really boss room-looking place.

Her HP Bar can be seen, but that is no different from a monster.

If Sally says she’s a monster, then Sally is a monster.

“Fight?”

Even if Sally reveals that she is a player, they will fight still, since they need to get her medals. And even if Sally says she does not have any, they would not believe her.

Also, if these four who are planning to explore deeper were ignored, they would reach the poison passage that Maple made.

There is no doubt that they would think that this is an un-cleared dungeon if they saw that.

It would be the end if they were able to pass through the poison passage.

Defeating them is the safest.

If so, it would be more interesting acting like a monster, or at least, that was Sally thought.

To do that, she answered with a fixed sentence.

“It looks like... we’d hit the jackpot!”

The party of four completely thought that Sally is a mid-boss, and believed that this

was a dungeon that was yet to be explored.

“I just hope it’ll be a good fight”

Fishes clad with blue light appeared around Sally.

The reason why Sally acted like a monster.

It was because she was still excited after finishing a massacre.

She could not help but want to fight a little more.

If they think that she is a monster, they will battle without a doubt. Her opponent would show their best as well.

Since she would need to defeat them in the end, she wanted to do it in a fun way.

For Sally, having fun is what a game is all about.

“Fufufu... this is really fun”

“Be careful! Let’s go!”

““““Yeah!”““““

For people playing games, there is no doubt that they are asking for pleasure different from reality.

Both Sally and the group of four players were not an exception.

Changing places, Maple lied around in a room and cheered after Syrup and Oboro.

“[Bite]! Go~! Do your best! [Fox Fire]!”

Maple smiled pleasantly seeing the ants getting defeated.

“That’s great~! That’s great! Do your best to level up okay!”

Maple stood up and patted the two.

It would be a scene of a girl being friends with animals if Maple were not wearing full equips.

That was a commonly seen scene in the real world.

Maple was completely clueless that Sally was fighting.

Maybe, Maple was a type of player that is an exception.

# Chapter 51

## Defense Specialized and Event Finished

“Guha!!”

“Byebye”

The players transformed into light and disappeared.

Sally sheathed her dagger then sat on the ground.

There were many invaders that came, but none of them were able to injure Sally.

The sixth day has almost ended.

“Only 30 minutes left huh...”

Since the last attack, there was no one who came for a while, so it is currently 11:30 pm right now.

As long as Maple regains her abilities, they would be able to freely roam around.

It is also alright to stay in this dungeon just like now, or go out as well.

“Today’s... last opponent...?”

Sally stood up and drew her dagger.

She heard someone coming.

“n?”

“...n?”

Sally and the intruder faced each other.

There was only one intruder.



Her equipments were beautiful Japanese clothes and katana.

“We... met again!”

“Haa~... what have you come here for, Kasumi?”

That’s right. The intruder was Kasumi.

Kasumi has not even placed her hand on her katana.

It just shows that she does not plan on fighting.

Sally does not have the eagerness to fight her as well.

She would retaliate if Kasumi were to attack her, but their opponent was someone she cooperated with to clear a dungeon.

Sally was not thinking of attacking from her side at all.

“I’m also someone who possesses medals after all. I just thought of hiding myself”

“It’s the same with us huh”

“As I’ve thought; Maple’s around right? I don’t see her though...”

“Maple is staying deep inside”

“Is it alright to go and see her?”

“You’ll die in an instant if you can’t walk on poison you know?”

Hearing Sally say that, Kasumi seems to have guessed the situation inside, so she did not look like she was going.

“Well, I think she’ll come out sooner or later. I asked Maple to keep my medals, so... it’s like, I’m defeating the players that target the medals here”

Hearing that, Kasumi suggested one thing.

“If so, can I stay here as well? It’s full of battles when I’m walking outside, so...”

Many players can recognize Kasumi, so there should be a lot of instances when she needs to fight when walking outside.

“Okay. Kill them if anyone comes”

“Understood. I also want to take back my gold medals with me”

「メイプルを守ってあげるか。そっちも、誰か来たら斬って」

——こうして中ボス枠は二人になった。

「了解。私も金メダルは持ち帰りたい」

イベント最終日にて

The mid-bosses became two.

However, there should be fewer players who would think that Sally's a monster, since Kasumi joined her.

However, instead, the allure of getting medals was added, so probably, the possibility of a fight was not less.

When the two girls have guarded the passage ahead while talking, Maple came from the back passage.

"Sally! They leveled up~! Look, look~!... a-re?"

Syrup and Oboro were following Maple by her side.

Maple and Kasumi's eyes met then.

"Kasumi?! Why are you here?!"

"n~... that's, well, it's to protect my medals... but, what's up with those two?"

Kasumi is the first person other than Maple and Sally who have seen Syrup and Oboro.

"They are our partners~!"

They hadn't talked about the monster bird when they had met before, so Maple told her.

Kasumi was surprised by the unbelievable strength of the monster bird, and the fact that they had defeated it.

"The rewards are eggs huh... right now, only the two of you should have them. I had also met a lot of players, but they did not have one"

Kasumi had guessed right.

Currently, only Maple and Sally have pet beasts.

It is unknown what will happen in the events from now on, but probably, clearing a

high difficulty dungeon should be a requirement.

“Oh, right, I’ll return Oboro okay?”

“n, thanks”

The two girls returned their equipments.

“What do you want to do? You wanna leave this cave?”

Since Maple has resurrected, they should be able to survive even if they do not hide in this cave.

However, it seems like Maple was not eager to go out.

Maple thinks that it is more important to protect their medals carefully.

Maple told her thoughts to Sally.

“If so... it would be great if you block the passage”

“n, I got it!”

Maple walked towards the entrance of the hall and drew out Shingetsu.

A huge violet magic circle was created.

“[Hydra]!”

The poison dragon messed up the passage while advancing towards the entrance.

Maple was clueless about the fact that along the way, it devoured one party, and crashed into the players in the entrance.

Maple then walked through that passage, and after walking for a while, she used [Venom Capsule] and returned.

“With this, we should be safe!”

“Kasumi and I, won’t be able to get out anymore though~”

“Ahh, I see. That’s true... I believe you okay?”

Kasumi is unable to escape in this situation.

It means, it is possible to steal her medals.

Without needing to be asked, the other two girls did not plan to do that.

“With this, we only need to spend one day”

The time, it had already passed midnight.

It should be better to sleep here once.

There is no need to intentionally wait for the 7th day to end while tired.

To be sure, the three of them took turns to guard while sleeping.

In the end, there was not even one intruder who appeared, and they were able to wake up well.

Occasionally, there were also players who have poison resistance who entered but still died.

“Good morning”

“Good morning!”

“Good morning. It’s the last day huh”

The long event was finally about to end.

Maple and Sally were able to clear their goal, and it was a fascinating event.

“Ah, that’s right! We don’t know when the medals would be needed, so I’ll give Sally her share okay?”

Maple took out Sally’s share of medals from her inventory and gave it to Sally.

“Thanks”



Sally carefully received that and kept it.

Kasumi did not spend all of her efforts to search for silver medals, and was fine as long as she had her gold medal, so she does not have silver medals as much as Maple and Sally.

“But, it’s somewhat, right? We don’t have anything to do today right?”

“That’s true”

“Then, you want to play with Maple’s toys? You have a lot right?”

Maple agreed with Sally’s suggestion and took out the things that she had one by one. Within them, there was also Othello.

“Kanade was really strong~”

Maple remembered when she played with Kanade. They promised to play again when they meet each other again.

“Kanade? Who is that?”

Kasumi did not know Kanade, so Maple told her.

And because of the flow of the conversation, she also told Kasumi about the fight against the giant squid, so she was very surprised.

Players like the two who have continuously fought against strong enemies should be rare.

“Isn’t Maple just weak?”

“Mumumu... you’ve said it~? Then play with me okay?”

“Alright?”

The game started with Maple choosing black and Sally with white.

The result.

The board was almost covered with black color.

“Eh...? Maple, aren’t you too strong?”

“I’m quite good at it you know? I lose to Kanade though...”

“Then, let’s do a different game! Something that we can play with the three of us”

Sally could not bear to lose as well, so they decided to play a different game.

She understood that she did not have any chance of winning with Othello.

And just like that, while the three girls were playing, not even one player had disturbed their time.

And, finally.

The end of the event has come.

An announcement echoed throughout the field, and the players would be teleported to the place they were before after five minutes.

With this, the two girls must part with Kasumi again.

“Then, when we return”

“Yeah, let’s meet again”

A new encounter and new powers obtained.

The second event ended with the two girls full of satisfaction.



# Chapter 52

## Defense Specialized and Skill Selection

The event ended and they were returned to their original location.

The accelerated time returned to its original flow as well.

An announcement was broadcasted by the management and exchanging skills and medals would be 30 minutes from now, so they were told to transfer the medals they possess if needed.

Maple had already given Sally her medals so there was no problem.

“I wonder what kind of skill there is?”

“Who knows? We can only wait and look...”

And after 30 minutes.

The management broadcasted an announce once again and told the players that they would be transported individually to a specialized room. It was also said that they cannot consult with others, so the individuals must choose the skill that they think they need.

And, finally, those ones who possess more than ten medals were enveloped by light and disappeared.

Maple’s vision is currently filled by the same blue color as the status plate.

One panel is floating in the middle of the exitless room that Maple is currently in.

Maple approached that and found skill names aligned in it.

It could be operated to show the detailed explanations of each skill.

“E~to... there’s about, a hundred?”

Combat-type skill, production-type skill, status increasing-type skill, and other skills

that do not belong among them.

Those were aligned in order.

“There doesn’t seem to be a time limit, so... I should take my time and decide!”

Maple has to types of skill that she can choose. Maple does not need skills that are blatantly attack-types so she ignored them.

They are the skills like [Divine Swordsmanship] or [Dragonik Spear] whose effects are obvious from their names.

And if you mention production-type skills, Maple’s DEX is too low so it would only be a waste.

With those in mind, the skills that Maple could choose is limited.

It could be said that among those who possess medals, Maple is the player who has the most number of skills that would prove useless even if she learned them.

With that reason, the time that she would be hesitating is reduced accordingly.

“[All Resist]... no, [Fortress] looks good too~... even choosing [Magic Powers Increment] is quite, as well...”

Maple took her time choosing which one she should choose.

“n?..... nn??”

Maple’s eyes landed on a certain skill.

She took her time staring at that skill’s explanation that a hole was almost opened.

“T-This! This should be the first one!”

A eureka flashed in Maple’s head.

She abided that and chose that skill.

“The last one, I wonder which I should choose...”

Maple started to select a skill once again. She is planning to decide immediately if a eureka like earlier appears.

“Which~ should~ I~ choose~? n~...”

Maple did not find a skill that lit a light bulb, so after some deep thoughts, she learned [Fortress].

[Fortress] is a skill that multiplies VIT by 1.5x.

Its activation requirement does not have a demerit as well, making it a skill that is worth the precious medals.

Maple possesses a skill that is equal to that, but that is because Maple is a little, no, quite far away from the norm.

Anyways, after finishing choosing her skills, Maple was once again enveloped by the light and disappeared.

# Chapter 53

## Defense Specialization and Sighting Information

*traitorAIZEN: different translator (newbie) from here on. Prepare yourself for more than a few grammar and translation errors.*

---

One day after the event is over.

The usual people gathered at the BB. *[TN: BB means Bulletin Board]*

542 Name: Anonymous shield user

>Finally the event ended.

There's a ton to talk about.

543 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>At last it was finished.

That was long

544 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>It was only two hours in RL.

It's a strange feeling.

545 Name: Anonymous shield user

>True

546 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>Does anyone have ten medals?

I can't get it.

547 Name: Anonymous wizard

>Impossible.

Dungeon was pretty cool

How should I put it, seven days of exploring is pretty tiresome

548 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>Indeed

549 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>I climbed the highest mountain but when I got there, there was nothing.

550 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>Say, is the top of that mountain a circular mountain?

Was there a shrine?

551 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>It's indeed circular

Do you know something?

552 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>I don't mind hearing about it

553 Name: Anonymous wizard

>I want to hear about it

554 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>Yoshi. It'll be a bit longer but I'll explain, I also climbed that mountain

So there was a magic circle in front of the shrine at the summit

Then I used the magic circle and got transferred to a place with huge bird-shaped monsters and got a beating.

As I was knock out tanks last Merely to be defeat crushingly.

The other party members died being hit by just one of the ice gravels that filled their field of vision.

Seriously the firepower was absurd.

So when you arrive at the summit and there was nothing, that meant that someone had defeated it already.

555 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>Wha...?

That unreasonable.

If the enemy's HP is 1 or so, then maybe... you know

556 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>Who can endure it if it is impossible for chrome...

No, There is one.

557 Name: Anonymous wizard

>Am I the only one who thinks about it?

558 Name: Anonymous user Shield

>The story has not ended yet

At that time there was another party at the summit.

It was Maple and her friends, if i am not wrong the player name should be Sally

Sally-chan is a cute girl with the whole body of blue equipment

So, if the magic circle was gone

There a high possibility the two captured it.

I guess they are going after us.

559 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>Oh it may have been the two of them that knocked it down.

Did maple kill the boss

Or that Sally? Is she the same type beginner as maple?

Which is it?

560 Name: Anonymous Archer

>A bit late

Instead I brought two interesting information

561 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>What kind of information is it?

562 Name: Anonymous wizard

>Comfortable

Surprising

563 Name: Anonymous Archer

>The first one

It seems there was a place where a tragedy happened on the sixth day of the event

A wandering monster of a human type who wrapped herself in blue clothing?

Or a player?

In any case it seems to approach and avoid all attacks

Suddenly disappearing, it is said that swords avoids it

There were so many victims

She seems to have a middle boss in a nearby cave thereafter.

Incidentally there were also someone saying poison dragons jumped out of the cave

564 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>I see

Well blue clothes

A poisonous dragon.

I think I have heard of it.

565 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>It is definite whether the poisonous dragon is like Maple-chan.

I wonder if there are two of her like that

So what is that?

Is the blue clothes Sally?

567 Name: Anonymous wizard

>The possibility of Sally is likely to be high

Sally is also going to be bad

It's not like people trying to break off the sword being swung down

568 Name: Anonymous user Spear

>It is not a skill medal in the event

Either an unknown acquisition skill.

Or there is a possibility of pure PS

If the latter is true

569 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>I remembered with a medal skill choice

Skills that seems to be based on Maple's super high defense were in it

[Fortress]

Skill that VIT becomes 1.5 times



There is a high possibility that I have more than one of these  
Think that defense power is not one  
It is about 1.5 times faster to do it from my VIT value

570 Name: Anonymous wizard

>Maybe Maple-chan might have taken it or rather Maple-chan would definitely take it.  
I do not have a medal.  
Soo, It will still be hard?

580 Name: Anonymous Archer

>Back to the second information.

I saw Maple and Sally after the event in a popular desert

Maple-chan who showed herself after a long absence, flew around on the back of a flying turtle around the sky, and creating rain of poison

581 Name: Anonymous wizard

>Wait my brain can't handle it

582 Name: Anonymous user Shield

>There shouldn't have been such a skill.  
In the first place a skill like that never existed.  
Wonder if it was not there.  
I don't know what's going on anymore

583 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>Seriously, How many medals did she get?  
What is the phenomenon like?

584 Name: Anonymous Archer

>I don't know but the problem is?

The turtle

Flying

And, the Poison rain

These three things.

Well, The poison rain is [The usual] but the remaining two are the problem.

What the hell happened during the event

585 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>There is something like Taming, Right?

No, is this an item somewhere during the event?

586 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>Maple-chan has been called by two names

The First one is [Fortress] That's pretty much true and the second name is. [Floating fortress]

587 Name: Anonymous Wizard

>She will fly upward obliquely if I take my eyes off a bit.

I would like to see her skill column and equipment column.

Seriously, she became a [Floating Fortress]

Maybe there's a time limit or something

588 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>Sally is also important. Watching over people and things gathered around Maple have a tendency to change in general

589 Name: Anonymous Archer

>I already think that Sally is not an ordinary player

I want to fight her once

It may be an AGI skill that avoids attacks

I will not know unless I try it

590 Name: Anonymous Shield user

>Let's try it soon

I already registered friends with Maple-chan

At that time I will see Sally's ability too

591 Name: Anonymous Spear user

>I'm expecting a good report

592 Name: Anonymous Largesword user

>I'm expecting you.

# Chapter 54

## Defense Specialization and Skill Contents

“What kind of skill did Sally choose?”

The two who finished selecting the medal skills were sitting on the bench of the second town.

“Hmm... I got lost a lot, but I made it to a [Addition Blade]”

“[Addition blade]”

Maple, who does not even see the content of offensive skill, so she do not know what kind of skill it is.

“Etto... it’s a Skill that triggers additional attack of one third the weapon power when the attack succeeds”

“Etto.....?”

“It doubles the number of attack. Because I am a dual-sword, [double slash] will become eight consecutive shots”

“Sugo ~tsu!”

“Well, they have a [poor dexterity] There are also two swords have less damage per stroke, so I still can not do a full-scale operation yet”

Sally tends to prefer attack methods with a lot of hands and fast attack methods.

Maple tends to increase durability.

“So, What kind of skills did Maple chose?”

“I don’t know if I can use it properly”

“Huh?”

Sally did not quite understand what Maple says.

Why would it be possible to choose a skills that she don't know well for why?

"Well then let's go to the desert. I would like to try it out of sight."

"U... un. I understood"

I did not have a surprise at what kind of skills Maple chose.

"Yo shi, Let's go Syrup."

Maple called Syrup

"Syrup! [Huge]!"

In response to Maple's voice Syrup's body is enveloped in light and grows.

When his first height was around 3 meters.

Now It's about 5 meters and a half.

This is the skill that Syrup gained after level up on the sixth day of the event.

[Huge] Doubles the HP.
---------------------------

After become huge and double the HP Syrup become more susceptible to damage.so, it was a skill that can't be effectively used in current slow syrups.

"Please go well, please go well"

Maple closes his eyes and prays while holding hands.

Maple who had been doing it for a while shouted and opened his eyes.

“[Nenriki (Psychokinesis)]”

When she say that, Syrup body began to floating.

The giant did not feel any weight and stopped as it floated about 10 meters form ground.

“E ~e...?”

“Yatta! Yatta! It worked.”

Maple who jumped and excited about her success.

On the other hand, Sally, who is silent under the battle stage against the monster birds, is stunned.

She know from what happened, her mind stopped thinking in this mysterious situation.

Maple chose his skills by an intuition.

It was something Sally could not do.

That’s why [something she do not know well] is born.

The performance of the other skills chosen by Maple did not look like something that maple will chooses.

[Psychokinesis]

You can float a monster.

Success rate of skill changes according to resistance probability set for each monster.

Once failed, one hour can not be reused for the target monster.

It does not act on other than monsters.

Consumption of MP at the time of skill use varies with resistance probability.

After looking at maple skill sally showing his confusion.

From this skill explanation, she could not understand why maple takes this skill at all.

As Sally's saw, this was to detain enemy monsters, but it was confirmed that the enemies could not be restrained but consumption seemed to be big.

"Why did you take that skill?"

"Because I thought that I could fly with syrup"

"Oh, Hai." *[TN: I leave this line to your imagination if you already learn japan you know "Hai" has many meaning]*

There is no good reason there.

I think Maple just wants to have fun. she takes the skills for what she wants to do.

And as I mentioned earlier, maple intuition sometimes causes too a heinous phenomenon.

"Ne~e Maple?... Syrup? Until when it stay flying?"

"eh?..... that? Is true"

Maple looks at his MP, but it is not decreasing at all

".....No way!"

"what? Did you understand something?"

"Syrup is not an ordinary monster. Thank too bond created by [Bridge of bond] syrup has been connected to maple"

"Yup! that's right"

Maple naturally still wears the ring.

"[Bridge of bond] It is? If the monster is tied by bond..... How about the resistance probability... how much percent is it?"

What Sally wants to say is that the syrup that is tied to Maple by [Bridging of the Bond]

[resist].

If the resistance probability is 0%, how much is the MP consumption?

Sally came through because this skill had no explanation about it.

There was no need to throw away medals and go to bet on Sally.

“In other words, it seems like you can fly for a long time with syrup, do not you?”

“Well, that’s right”

“Well fine things are fine. syrup! Come back!”

Maple recalls syrup

“I am gonna ride on your back.”

Responding to that syrup gripped Maple’s head gently and threw it to the top of his shell.

“Yo~tsu!”

Maple falls over with Gashan sound on the shell. The widened shell is also comfortable to ride.

Maple raises altitude to seventh meter and looks around.

“Maple! A group of Dung beetles is coming!”

Maple who heard sally screaming look around his surrounding

And she see the dust generated when the dung beetle moves around.

“Sally! Get away!”



Sally realized that Maple started something, and escaped with [super acceleration].  
It was because she had no idea what to do.

“[Acid Rain]!”

Maple thrust shingetsu at the new moon in the sky.

A mass of purple water of 15 centimeters in diameter jumped out of the magic circle, the water spreads randomly at a position about five meters away from Maple.



“Yay!Rainy Rainy”

The rain that maple gave down stopped the movement of the beetle, every time it hit. The quick movement of the beetle can't be undone, as their only fate to be destroyed by the poison rain.

Two people were watching such a spectacle from afar.

One is Sally.

The other person was a man with a bow

““Wow.....”“

Those who saw the mysterious behavior of Maple seemed to be highly punctuated and their vocabulary become poor.

A little later.

At the moment when the number selected during the skill selection displayed on the monitor became zero, they leaned back on the backrest and reclined.

In the room of the management.

The color of fatigue appears outstandingly on the face of everyone.

It seems like everyone gonna pass out right now.

“Ushi, all the skill has been selected.”

“Well... the second event got me... It was good that a bug did not occur”

“Ha~a... that's right! She is? What skill did maple choose?”

“If it is Maple, maybe [Fortress] or somethind aroud it. Right...? I think like that...”

“Oh, taking [Fortress]. no problem. Defense power and something is already crazy so if going to increase it from here..... Psycho... kine, cis?”

“I have a bad feeling”

“Me too”

“Find Maple! Make it to the monitor!”

Maple is immediately displayed on the monitor.

Maple...

...Was flying around on a huge turtle and casting a poisonous rain

““.....This is Bad””

“I told you to check the skills! right? I told it!”

“I did it! But, as Maple does not take that skill, that adjustment is okay with that adjustment...”

““Say it in a sense of perseverance!!””

“Maple will always come with anything! That is [normal]”

“Uwaaaaa! Uwaaaaa!”

Can't, tolerate with the shock the image showing and together with tiredness several people stunned and getting knocked out.

Then, as soon as the picture of the monitor was erased along with giving up, everyone's energy has run out.

# Chapter 55

## Defense Specialization and Loot

Contents fluent.

Excuse me.

“Yō shi, finally finished!”

Maple lowers syrup altitude.

She was trying to get off while slowly clinging to syrup feet, but of course it slipped down.

After returning syrup to the ring, maple headed to sally.

“Tadaimā!”

“Sometimes Maple changing to something that I can’t understand”

“really?”

“yeah”

What they got in the second event is a big shield and scroll.

That was acquired in the cave where the snail was.

Because they had forgotten to confirm it, they decided to check the item now.

Depending on the item performance maple can evolve further.

“First is the scrolls”

It the scroll that let you learns skill [Encouragement].

Sally and Kasumi possess this.

[Encouragement]

Raise your party member's [STR] [AGI] who was within 15 meters in radius by 20% for one minute.

There is no effect to the user.

"It's for parties... is it meaningless if I use it?"

It is pointless even if Sally raises the status of Maple.

No matter how many percent zero is raised, it is zero.

If [VIT] rised, it will be different, but these skill still not be necessary for the two of them.

Even so, Sally still learned the skill.

And, naturally Maple learn the skill to.

"Well then, next is the Great shield"

The Great shield exchanged by handing a staff and a spear to Kasumi, the shield was made of purple crystal.

Maple reminds vividly of the cave full of snails by looking at the shield.

"It was such an obstacle right?"

"That right... I would like to go again if there is no snail."

Maple confirms the capability of the Great shield.

**[Mass of the Violet Crysta]**

[VIT + 30] [Crystal wall]

Maple checks the skills.

The value of this Great shield depends on this skill because the rise value of [VIT] is lower than the [white snow].

[Crystal wall]

Make the wall with HP the same value as the HP of the player who activated

the skill within 5 meters in radius.  
After use, it is five minutes to be reusable.

“Oh... I do not seem to be able to use it like that”

If it was the same as the value of [VIT], it would have been horrible.

Every five minutes obstacles with the same defensive power as Maple will spring up to protect Maple.

“If maple’s HP is high it may have been quite usable.”

By one status point to HP, HP will increase by 20. The same is true for MP.

Therefore, if you acquire the skill of proportion recovery like [meditation] by adding the skill point to HP rather than [VIT] it will make viability higher.

That’s the reason [VIT] getting outspokenly.

Only after going like Maple the damage reduction of [VIT] becomes a thing.

“Should I try it out later?”

Maple puts the Great shields into her inventory.

Because Maple had [Crystal wall (Suishō kabe)], I thought that it would not be never used at all.

“Because Maple’s big shield is enough...”

Sally’s saying that, of course, [Mirror of the Dark Night (Yamiyo no Utsushi) ].

There will not be such a Great shield above that.

“That remind me... my level has risen”

“Me,too. I was killing the fish while Maple was playing with the squid”

Maple  
Lv29  
HP 40/40 (+160)  
MP 12/12 (+10)

[STR 0]

[VIT 180 (+141) ]

[AGI 0]

[DEX 0]

[INT 0]

#### Equipment

Head [blank]

Body [Armor of Black Roses (Kurobara no Yoroi)]

Right hand [New Moon (Shingetsu): Hydra (Dokuryuu)]

Left hand [Mirror of the Dark Night (Yamiyo no Utsushi): Bizarre Eater (Akujiki)]

Foot [black rose nose]

Shoes [Black rose nose]

Accessories [Bridge of bonds]

[Toughness ring]

[Ring of life]

#### Skill

[Absolute Defense] [Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)] [Hydra Eater (DokuryuuKurai)] [Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)] [Meditation] [Provoke]

[Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)] [Knowledge of Great Shield IV] [Body handling] [Attack diversion] [Shield Attack]

[HP Enhancement (Small)] [MP Enhancement (Small)]

[Cover Move I] [Cover]

[The indomitable guardian]

[Psychokinesis]

[Fortress] [Encouragement]

Sally

Lv24

HP 32/32

MP 45/45 (+35)

[STR 30 (+20) ]

[VIT 0]



[AGI 85 (+68) ]

[DEX 25 (+20) ]

[INT 30 (+20) ]

### Equipment

Head [Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura): Mirage (Shinkirō)]

Body [Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto): Ocean (Taikai)]

Right hand [Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)]

Left hand [Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)]

Legs [Leggings of the Ocean]

Shoes [Black Boots]

Accessories [Bridge of bonds]

[Blank]

[Blank]

### Skill

[Status Abnormal Attack III] [Sword Fencing II]

[Gale Slash] [Muscle strengthening (small)]

[Small Strengthening] [Down Attack]

[Power Attack]

[Switch Attack] [Taijutsu V]

[Knowledge of Daggers II] [Dexterity] [Defense Break] [Super Acceleration]

[Ancient Sea]

[Addition blade] [Encouragement]

[Fire Magic I] [Water Magic II] [Wind Magic III]

[Earth Magic I] [Dark Magic I] [Light Magic II]

[Fire Ball] [Water Ball]

[Water Wall]

[Wind Cutter] [Wind Wall] [Cyclone Cutter]

[Sand Cutter]

[Dark Ball]

[Refresh] [Heal]

[MP enhancement (small)] [MP cut small]

[MP Recovery Speed Enhancement (small)] [Knowledge of Magic II]

[Fishing] [Swimming X] [Diving X] [Cooking I]

[Speed Enhancement (small)] [Hiding Presence II]

[Sense Presence II] [stealthy steps] [Leap III]

[Poison resistance (small)]

“Almost reaching level 30”

“I tried quite well but I still can’t look the difference”

“What’s the highest level now?”

“I think 61 before the event? Was it? Level 100 is the limit now, but maybe the maximum will be released if someone reaches it”

“61! What? U wa~a... suggoi...! It seems impossible for us right now”

“Because those people are in a different dimension... no... Maple is another dimension too”

Sally who say that don’t know that she getting certified outside on the net.

Unlike the previous event, the picture has not publication yet so it has not become famous so far, but it is only a matter of time.

Until she joining the existence of another dimension.

“Tomorrow is a school... It feel like a long time ago”

“Sōda ne. We shall Log out earlier today?”

“Un! Let’s do it”

They logged out respectively.

The sight is enveloped by light

Kaede who returned to the real world confirmed the time.

“.....Seriously only two hours has passed...”

She realize again by looking at the clock in the real world.

In the seventh day during the event, if she close her eyes and think about it, it floats clearly in the head of Kaede.

There were also a lot of serious fights, but it remained memorable more than that she had a good time with Risa.

“I wonder if there is an event like that again... I wish I could stay with Kasumi and Kanade this time...”

Kaede was immersed in his thought for a while, but switching to prepare for tomorrow

and move on to study.

“Is Risa studying properly?... I’m about to sleep...”

Kaede also realized before saying that she should study properly before being banned.

“True... has gotten into trouble”

The idea of playing a game with Risa was similar to Risa before Kaede started the game.

It is likely to interact with my best friend.

“If it is now... maybe I understand a little feeling of Risa that I invited so much”

When I met again tomorrow, Kaede decided to talk about various things started to concentrate on my studies.



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